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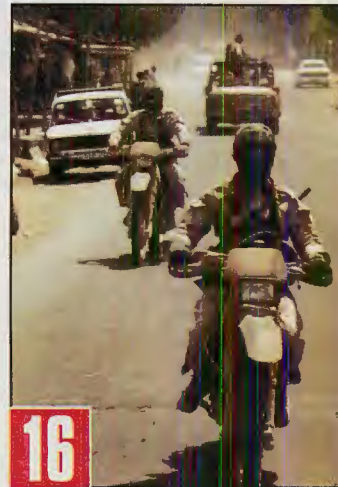


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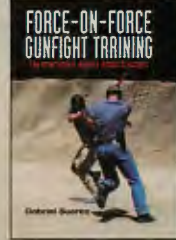
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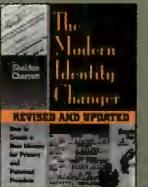


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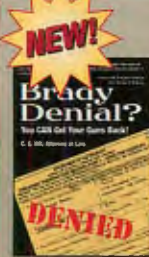


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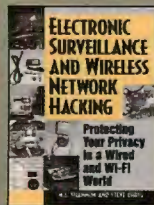


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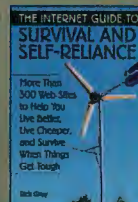
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The Time Has Come...

Dear Bob:

Herewith a suggested presentation on the subject of Income Tax Remission for *Medal of Honor* Winners, which we discussed at Houston. It is quite short, but I see no need to expand it. It speaks for itself and everybody I talked to seemed very enthusiastic.

Anyone who has earned the Congressional *Medal of Honor* has paid in full his monetary obligations to his country. It is, therefore, proposed that all living holders of the *Medal of Honor* be exempt hereafter from the payment of federal income tax. Federal action to this effect would clearly express the acknowledgment of America's gratitude to its outstanding heroes. This action should have been taken long ago, but now is a particularly good time for it to manifest our national position in the conflict in which we are now engaged.

The financial drain of this act would be almost indiscernible in the budget, yet it would be a spectacular reward to those who deserve it. I do not know whether this action should be initiated in Congress or at the Executive level, but however that may be, it would be a very satisfying way of showing support for the administration at this time of narrow voting margins. It would also boost the prestige of *SOF*, always worth boosting.

I will introduce this matter in my Commentaries and suggest political support from all hands. I do not see any bad side to it. I only wonder that it has not been brought up before.

There are other matters to discuss which we did not get around to at Houston, but his will do for now. ✖

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Farewells to Hack:

With the death of Colonel David Hackworth, America lost one of her finest sons. A man of Hallmark and the noblest of our kind, he was of that rare, ancient, warrior breed. Col. Hackworth not only wrote personal, innovative chapters on the strategy and tactics of combat, but he excelled himself as a man of letters and superior intellect. Never lacking in the willingness for a good scrap, he was a formidable statesman for our present fighting forces, and for the cause of veterans who had served their time in the trenches.

As one of the exclusive members of the warrior aristocracy, I could well imagine Col. Hackworth ascending into Valhalla accompanied by a praetorian guard of Valkyries, With Wagner's titanic music drama "Siegfried's Funeral March," thundering through the green valleys, across the mighty sea, and over the majestic mountains, as an old soldier who did his duty, was finally coming home to rest.

Present Arms!

Sincerely,
Robert F. Ely

I have been asked recently, and yes, Audie Murphy was the most decorated soldier from WWII. He had the MOH and Hack didn't, but Murphy "wouldn't hold water" to Hack when comparing the total number of combat medals.



Colonel David Hackworth was awarded: eight purple hearts, two Distinguished Service Crosses, ten Silver Stars, seven Bronze Stars with V, four Army Commendation Medals with V, one Air Medal with V, and one distinguished Flying Cross, plus numerous Vietnamese Awards for Gallantry in action. CIB: two awards, one for Korea and one for Vietnam. There're no two veterans that could compare with Hack's record, with a total of 25 combat Valor awards plus eight purple hearts plus two CIB's. That would be awfully hard to beat even if half of them were phony. These medals were all certified in an Army audit done by Colonel Pam Mitchell on 6 May 1999.

One of the reasons for more combat awards in Vietnam than WWII, is that most in Vietnam were engaged with the enemy more: The average infantryman in the South Pacific during WWII saw about 40 days of combat in four years. The average infantryman in Vietnam saw about 240 days of combat in 1 year thanks to the mobility of the Chopper!

Conventional wisdom has it that Hack was denied the MOH several times because he didn't hesitate to tell some

of those spit-shined rear echelon Generals where to stuff it! I only regret that I didn't get to shake this "Super Soldiers" hand before he died!

He died from cancer caused by Agent Blue. I never heard of Agent Blue (only agent orange) before his death, did you?

Regards,
Tom Foster
Veterans Advocate

I just learned about Col Hackworth's passing on Thursday this weekend. Please give my condolences to his family. The good Colonel's efforts were very much appreciated by the warriors still in "the trenches." Speaking the truth is never popular not appreciated by those who are incompetent. Only on a few occasions did I think he was off the mark, but that was based on faulty or erroneous information given to him. Col. Hackworth can say that he went to Valhalla with a clean conscience. May we all endeavor so to do.

Semper Fi,
Lt. Col. Freddie Blish, USMC

G'day From a Kiwi

The guys here call me Kiwi. I'm a New Zealander that's been doing PSD work all over Iraq since 2003. Just wanted to drop you guys a quick line and say a couple of things about being out here.

I spent more than a decade in the NZ Army, the majority of the time doing "non-typical" work. Got to go to a lot of places in the world with the military, some real interesting ones at that.

During my military career I was never a real big fan of the "bravado" and "exuberance" shown by many U.S. military guys that I was deployed with. Since working as a civilian security op in Iraq, I have seen some real cowboys out here - even some that have been real scary to watch.

However, I must tell you that the SEALs, SF, and Delta guys I go on "rides" with here, are more than a cut above the rest. I've gotten to meet a lot of real good blokes here and had the pleasure to work with quite a few of them. Even though the majority of them have been out of the service for a number of years, their professionalism and work ethic has made it a real honor to work with them. TomM, ArtS, FosterH, PokerJ, and others. You know who you are.

I've seen, and been involved in, my fair share of incidents since first arriving here two years ago. I am so lucky to have been, at different stages, partnered alongside these guys when the "sh*t hit the fan," as we say at home. As I write this email, the last four days have seen three PSD convoys attacked in an aggressive manner that has usually been reserved for CF. One convoy near Ramadi had four KIA and 14 MIA. These guys were hit by two VBIED's, RPGs, and SAF. The need for opera-



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tors to be of a skill level much higher than the average infantryman/Marine, goes without saying. To have had the chance to have worked with these guys, well I must have lucked-out. I have a huge amount of respect for these "Yanks." They guys are a credit to the U.S. services.

I received a few commendations in the army, but the day a former SEAL, TomM, told me that he would work with me anytime, well that felt like a true pat on the back.

Thanks for the chance to say my piece. God bless the CF and PSD's.

Cheers,
Kiwi

Turkish Islamic Empire's Genocide of Christian Armenians

Thanks for Dr. Martin Brass' article, "Turkey Threatens Northern Iraq," where he mentions the genocide of the Armenians, which his indoctrinated guide disputed as "exaggerated." The truth can be hard to come by while the government of Turkey strives mightily to snuff out her history of mass murder. Both genocide and genocide denial should be a crime.

The Armenians were the victims of genocide in 1915 – almost 30 years before the term was coined. The Armenians, who have lived around Mount Ararat since before recorded history, share a common language, culture, and church – they were the first nation to adapt Christianity. Although they had been conquered by many empires, they were especially op-

pressed – and many times massacred – under the (Islamic) Ottoman Empire (now Turkey) in the Nineteenth Century. The motives of the leaders who ordered their death may be compared to those of the Nazi leaders who authorized extermination of the Jews. Following the 1908 victory of the Young Turks, a faction among them, who seized power in 1913, espoused the doctrine of Pan-Turanianism, a formula for justifying the domination of Turks over the non-Turkic peoples, who were also non-Muslim and had been only tolerated by tradition. The Turkish government, soon after it entered World War I as Germany's ally, ordered extermination of the Armenian minority. The government used the opportunity the war presented them with – lack of observation by and immunity of sanctions from the Allies – to conceal their crime, just as Hitler used World War II to conceal the "Final Solution." Like Hitler, the men who ordered the Armenians slain labeled their victims as enemies who were planning to attack them. After World War I, the ruling junta authorizing the genocide fled, but their successors were responsible for the massacre of Greek Christians in Smyrna in 1922.

(name withheld by request)

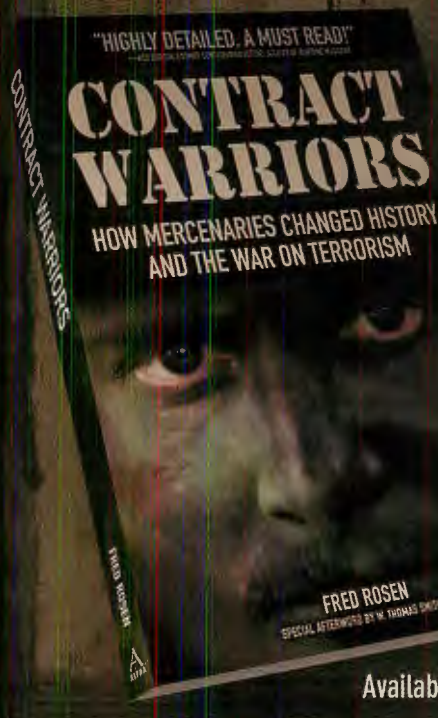
Fisher House – Helping Military Families

Dear SOF,

In your June 2005 "FLAK," page 81 there is a blurb titled "Denzel, You da' Man." This short article stated that Mr. Washington single-handedly paid for a Fisher House... The link below will take you to a page on the Fisher House

Continued on page 74

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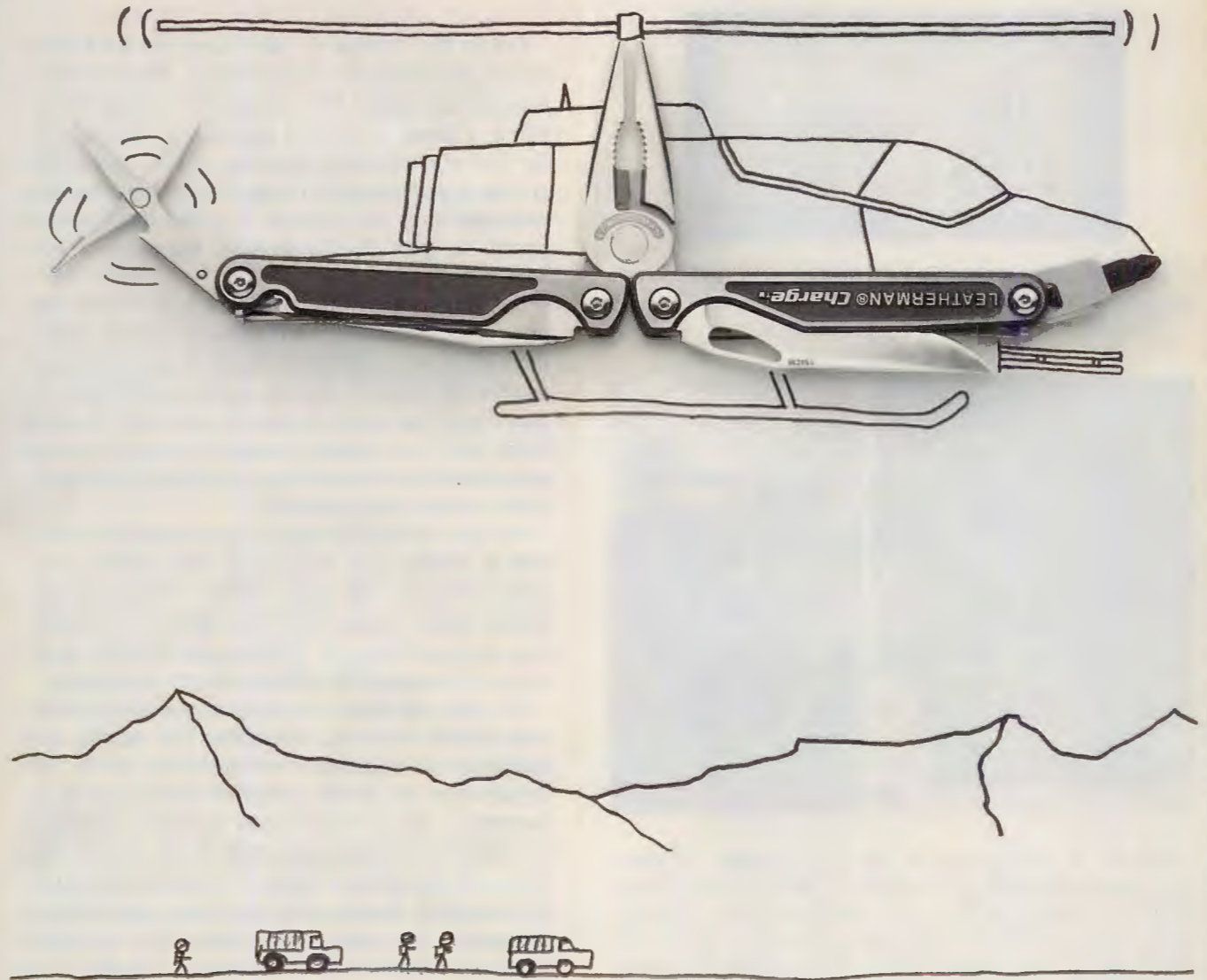
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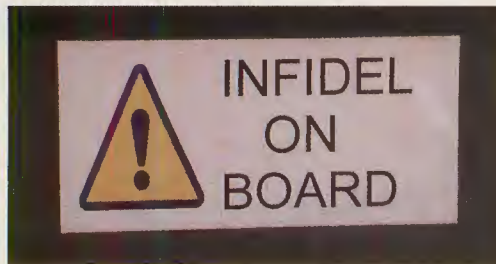
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BULLETIN BOARD



Politically correct? Not Yanks! These bumper stickers seen on POVs in Baghdad recently.



On the 30th anniversary of the fall of Saigon, Vietnamese communities held ceremonies to thank GIs and former South Vietnamese soldiers who fought for their freedom. In Phoenix, General Le Minh Dao, former head of the 18th ARVN Division, was guest speaker before some 500 attendees at a memorial banquet. Here, event organizer and former Vietnamese Ranger Bui Quang Lam, and former CSM Mike Martin attend wreath-laying ceremony at Vietnam Veterans Memorial. Photo: Richard Webster

Cracks in the OKC Cover-Up

A Federal judge in Utah has directed the FBI to turn over documents detailing an informant operation the FBI had coordinated with Morris Dees' Southern Poverty Law Center at the paramilitary camp, Elohim City, Oklahoma.

A heavily redacted memo presented in a suit demanding full disclosure said an SPLC informant was present on 17 April 1995 when Timothy McVeigh called Elohim City, looking for additional manpower for the planned OKC bombing.

The judge gave the FBI until 15 June to produce un-redacted copies of the memo, and other related evidence, or file an appeal. — Lt. Col. Roger Charles, USMC (Ret) and J.D. Cash (investigative reporter)

Vietnam Veterans Legacy Foundation

Led by Col. George E. "Bud" Day, the Air Force's most highly decorated combat veteran, Medal of Honor recipient and former POW who served in World War II, Korea, a group of Vietnam veterans, concerned with the lack of public understanding of the Vietnam War and the negative image of those who served there, has embarked on a new mission — to tell the American people the truth about what really happened in Vietnam.

Col. Day notes, "The false history of Vietnam has been used to demoralize our troops in combat, undermine the public's confidence in U.S. foreign policy and weaken our national security. Radical leftists such as Jane Fonda lied about the war 35 years ago. The goal of the VVLF is to continue the work of countering more than three decades of misinformation and propaganda, and to set the record straight."

The VVLF Board of Directors also includes Col. Kenneth W. Cordier, Cdr. Paul Galanti, and the Honorable James Warner — all former POWs — Mary Jane McManus, wife of former POW Kevin McManus, and Vietnam veterans Robert A. McMahon and Wallace Nunn, who is Chairman of the Medal of Honor Foundation.

The VVLF will serve as a national repository of Vietnam-related materials, information and records, and will make this information available to the public. The organization will create independent films and documentaries, and provide exhibits and visual materials to museums, libraries and other public places. The VVLF will also act as a source of accurate information for journalists, authors and researchers, and will work to counter and expose false information presented about the Vietnam War in the media. The VVLF is a 501(c)(3) public service corporation.

For more information, go to www.VietnamLegacy.org

Heads Up on Head-Spacing Ma Deuce

The venerable M2 .50 Browning has given nearly a century of service on land, in the air and at sea, and it soldiers on in Iraq. It's a true stalwart among ordnance designs, but it does require knowledgeable operation. From USAMC LAO Ft. Riley comes the below link and the comment, "Please take a moment to look at this short video clip and feel free to use it for training, etc. It was put together by one of our Senior TACOM Small Arms Equipment Specialists at Rock Island who operated our Small Arms Support Center (SASC) in Balad, Iraq; essentially a 'mini Depot' repair facility for all Small Arms. His comments are below."

This was done at Rock Island to re-create the mistakes that continue to occur in Iraq: When troops screw the barrel into the .50 without pulling the bolt back to release the locking spring [headspace set wrong] and then loosen the barrel up 3 to 4 clicks and attempt to fire it, this is what happens. The writer would see between five to eight of these guns a week at the SASC in Balad. It destroys the gun, and can injure the soldier. Go to this link, GI, and check it out: <http://www.myweb.cableone.net/1934/1934/m2.wmv>

Uncle Mike's Kydex Holster Recall

Uncle Mike's is recalling several thousand Kydex Glock external/duty holsters with retention straps. Fobus had a similar problem not long ago, and they too had a recall.

Uncle Mike's current problem is identical to Fobus': A retention strap, integral with the holster, somehow gets inside the trigger guard as the pistol is holstered, and in some cases, it exerts enough pressure on the trigger to cause a discharge as the gun is shoved into the holster.

Like Fobus, Uncle Mike's has redesigned the strap in order to preclude this.

Go to: www.uncle-mikes.com for further information.

Florida Codifies "Castle Doctrine"

Florida Governor Jeb Bush has signed into law new bill that codifies the "Castle" doctrine, explicitly stating that your home, or by extension your vehicle or your person is your

"castle" and you are not legally obliged to retreat if someone tries to invade your home or car, or assaults you on the street. Although the law says you *can* meet force with force, it doesn't say you *must*, or even that you *should*. Long-lived people usually have made every attempt to avoid, or escape, a deadly confrontation. But the new law evens the playing field, wherein a deadly confrontation may now be just as deadly for the attacker as for the victim. Go Jeb.

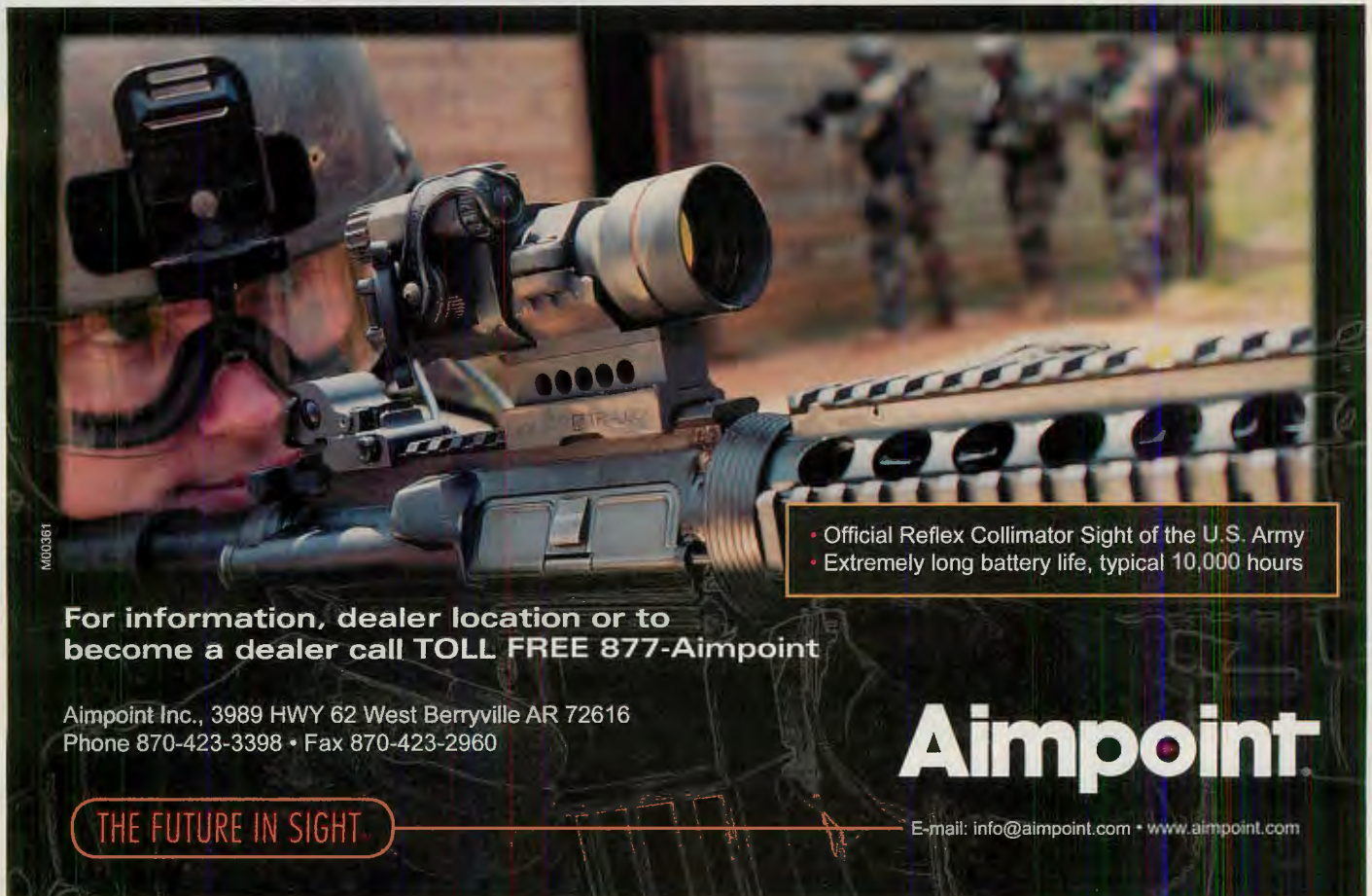
Good News from SA!

In a landmark decision, South Africa's Constitutional (Supreme) Court has restored the rights of property owners. Dubious claims by "indigent persons" to occupy private land have been ruled illegitimate. The court held that allowing illegal land grabs was "tantamount to anarchy."

Illegal squatters have, for years, occupied privately owned farmland and simply claimed it as their own. The government, more interested in staying in power than in righteousness and legitimacy, sided with squatters. Landowners attempted to oust these squatters through all legal means, to no avail. The leftist government there has no interest in protecting the rights and property of anyone but selected voting blocks.

The government will now have to pay affected landowners for lost revenue and restoration expenses. The government is also responsible for the prompt removal and relocation of squatters.

Notes John Farnam, "thankfully, SA's continued movement toward the lot of Zimbabwe has been (temporarily) halted. Maybe we could get some SA judges to sit on our Supreme Court!" ✕



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Scouts from 2nd Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment (Airborne) pose with their interpreter during operations in Deh Rawood. Top row from left to right: Spc. Joseph Leatham, Sgt. Michael Ortiz, 2/503rd translator who goes by "Rock" and Sgt. Nick Pak. Bottom row from left to right: Spc. Nicolas Conlort and Pfc. Nathan Reilly. Army photo

Paratroopers Deal Blow To

By PFC. Jon H. Arguello

QALAT, Afghanistan (Army News Service, May 9, 2005) – Paratroopers engaged a Taliban force last week in a remote valley of southeastern Afghanistan after an outnumbered scout patrol held out for 2.5 hours against heavy insurgent attack.

The 3 May battle in the Arghandab Valley, about 175 miles northeast of Kandahar, was part of the Coalition's spring offensive, dubbed "Operation Determined Resolve," with the aim of denying sanctuary to insurgents in preparation for fall elections, said a spokesman for Combined Joint Task Force 76.

Initial reports indicate about 20 insurgents were killed and one wounded in the battle.

One Afghan National Police officer was killed and five wounded, and six U.S. service members were wounded.

Intel Leads Scouts Into Deep Valley

The battle took shape after scouts in the Zabol Province received intelligence reports that insurgent forces happened to be in the same area. A group of seven scouts from the 2/503rd Infantry and 14 Afghan National Police headed toward the suspected location.

"We had been working with local police," said Staff Sgt. Patrick Brannon, scout squad leader from Jacksonville, Ill.

"Some of the information we had received led us to 18,000 DshKa heavy machine gun rounds, so we knew their information was legitimate."

Further intelligence reports placed 80 – 150 Taliban operating in the area.

"We were informed that the Taliban were threatening the people for cooperating with Coalition forces," said Brannon.

"We moved east through a valley," said Spc. Joseph Leatham, from El Mirage, Ariz., describing the movement toward the Taliban position. "We were surrounded by walls – steep cliffs. It was a very uncomfortable feeling."

Afghan Man Complains of Beating

Ten minutes into the trip, an Afghan man approached the convoy. The man had been recently released by the Taliban after having been beaten and threatened with execution for cooperation with Coalition forces.

"The guy said he was about to be executed and that there were about 30 Taliban in the area," said Sgt. Nick Pak from Tampa, Fla. "He had a note around his neck threatening the people and demanding that there be no schools."

While explaining what had happened, two Taliban members were spotted and identified by the man. Once confirmed as Taliban, the Afghan National Police opened fire. Almost



Taliban In Remote Valley

simultaneously, the convoy began receiving small arms fire from multiple directions.

The scouts received approval to engage the enemy and sent a sniper team to an over-watch position.

Outnumbered Scouts Return Fierce Fire

"As soon as we got to the top, we got RPG and small arms fire," said Spc. Nicholas Conlon, a scout sniper from Bridgewater, Mass.

"Pieces of rocks were breaking off all around us," added sniper team leader Sgt. Derek Huss, from Deer Park, Wash. "One [RPG] hit real close."

At this point, all the scouts were engaged in a heavy exchange of fire.

The scouts attempted to seal off the objective so the enemy could not escape. The fierce exchange was ordered to continue so that reinforcements could trap the Taliban and eliminate them. The outnumbered scouts engaged and re-engaged the insurgent forces three times before reinforcement from friendly forces could arrive.

Gunner Keeps Firing From Burning Humvee

"The enemy was trying to overrun our truck, so we broke contact," said Brannon.

As the Scouts tried to maneuver into a better position, one of the Humvees took several rocket-propelled grenade hits and burst into flames.

"I yelled 'You're on fire! You're on Fire!' to the other truck," said Pak.

The truck's gunner continued to fire his .50-cal machine gun as the Humvee was engulfed in flames.

"The truck was on fire but Leatham was still rocking the .50-cal," said Pak.

"The truck started rolling backwards," said Leatham. "I was still shooting and Sergeant Huss was trying to stop the truck. Sergeant Brannon was providing cover fire so I could get out of the vehicle."

Helicopter Attempts To Land Reinforcements

"We were pinned down pretty bad," said Sgt. Michael Ortiz, the assigned medic from Denver. "At that point, Chosen Company tried to land but they couldn't."

"I laid down suppressive fire with the Mk-19 so the bird could land," said Plc. Nathan Reilly, from Greensburg, Pa. "The landing zone was really hot and they couldn't land."

As much as the scouts laid down cover fire the landing zone was taking too much fire for the reinforcements to land.

Continued on page 32



Excerpted From

Shadow Wars

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Australian SAS Whack the Taliban

By David Pugliese

All photos courtesy of ADF



To the Afghans, the strange vehicle rumbling through their village must have looked like the ultimate war machine.

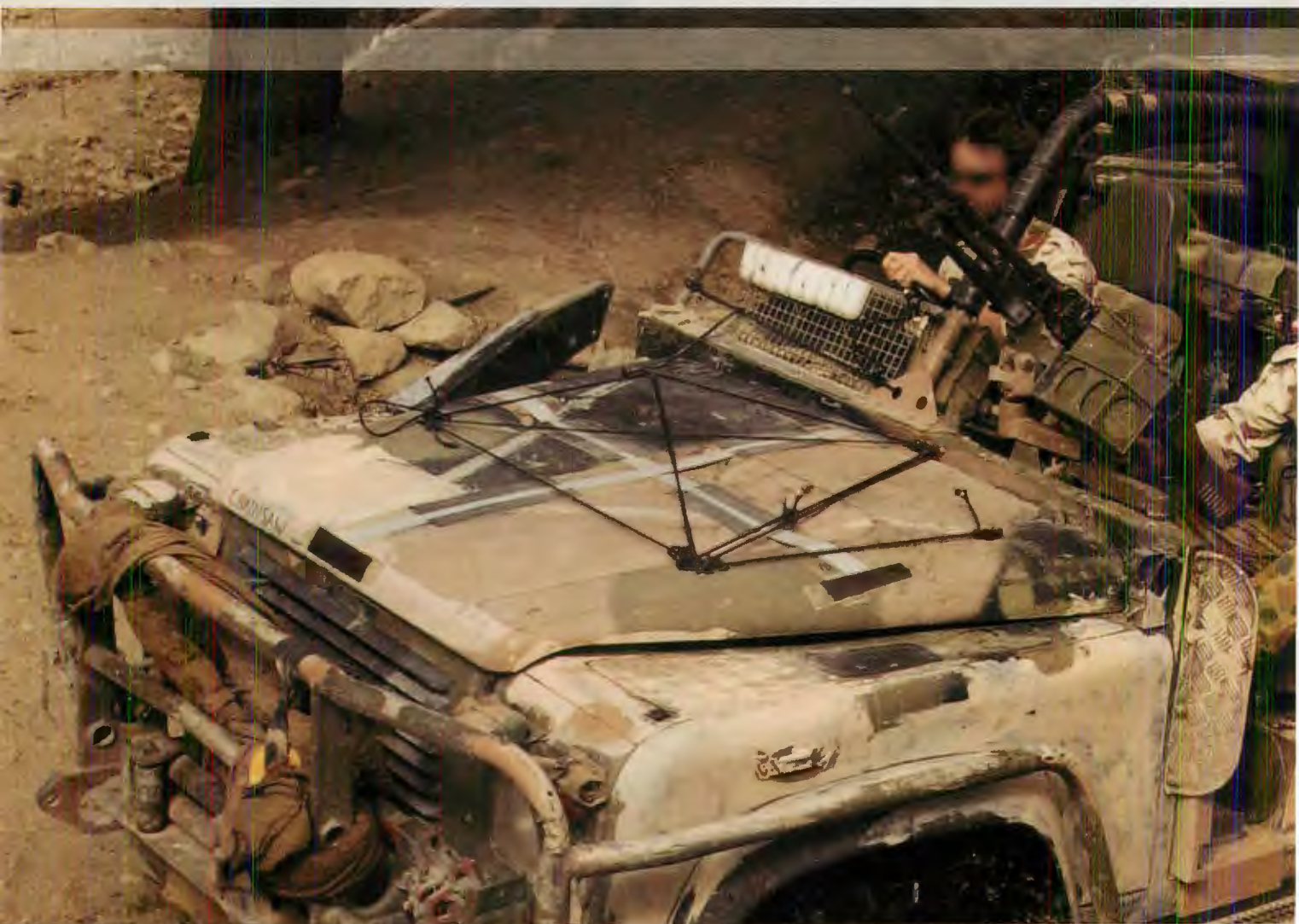
In a turret above the vehicle's driver, a muscular man with sunglasses stood behind a .50 machinegun. Beside the driver, another man, his face partially covered with a scarf, wielded a 7.62mm MAG 58. Ammunition containers were packed into the back of the six-wheeled truck and camouflage netting was draped on its hood. Other men inside the vehicle carried M4 carbines. Sometimes the trucks were accompanied by heavily armed motorcycle riders, who tore ahead across the desert to search out the enemy.

The Afghans' reaction to these patrols by the Australian Special Air Service was mixed. The kids loved to see the com-

mandos and would often run alongside the vehicles trying to get their attention. Some of the adults waved at the SAS while others would glare or spit on the ground as they passed.

As the Australian patrols rolled through villages and towns, the SAS men were struck by the large number of civilians carrying weapons. It wasn't unusual to see a utility vehicle full of PG projectiles drive by one of the patrols. Teenagers wandered through the streets armed with AK-47s. Figuring out which of the population was friend or enemy was just one of the many challenges of operating in Afghanistan.

The main purpose of the SAS patrols was to get into the country's remote areas in the south, especially those not previously explored by U.S. forces. Some missions involved conducting clandestine strategic reconnaissance aimed at gather-



(left) SAS motorcycles roar through an Afghan town during the hunt for al Qaeda. (below) Two Australian SAS operators cross a small stream in their 6x6 long-range patrol vehicle. Named the "Perentie," it is manufactured by Jaguar-Rover in Australia.

ing intelligence about al Qaeda and Taliban movements. Such operations were quickly followed by air strikes or lightning-quick raids to uncover weapons caches or search caves. Other patrols were overt, a heavily armed display designed to announce the Australian presence in the area.

Whatever the mission, the message was obvious: the Diggers, the Australian nickname for their fighting men, were not to be messed with.

The Australian SAS had been assigned to Captain Robert Harward's Task Force K-BAR. The officer was confident enough in the Australians' abilities to give them wide latitude in conducting their patrols. And it was a credit to the SAS Regiment that their participation in the Afghanistan war was considered by key U.S. decision-makers soon after the 11 September attacks.

In fact, it was three weeks after the attacks that the idea of having the Australian SAS participate in the planned U.S. offensive against al Qaeda was first raised at a meeting in Washington. Bush administration officials were still developing their strategy on how to launch a decisive blow against the terrorist network and, particularly, how to get U.S. SOF on the ground in Afghanistan. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and Secretary of State Colin Powell were reviewing the progress so far; Planning was indeed slow going.

Condoleezza Rice, President Bush's Assistant for National

Security Affairs and one of his closest advisors, told the men that U.S. allies were eager to contribute. Canada had offered naval forces, at least for starters. The French were talking about fighter jets as well as ships. Even Germany, a country known for its reluctance to deploy troops beyond its own borders because of its war-time past, wanted a piece of the action.

But, in particular, Rice singled out Australia's special forces. Two Australian SOF officers were already working at General Tommy Franks' CENTCOM headquarters in Tampa, Florida, she noted. What about giving Australian SOF a role?

Australian Prime Minister John Howard had given a speech just weeks before stating that not only was his country firmly behind America, it was ready to contribute military forces. Howard's recommendation to U.S. officials was that any response should be "targeted yet lethal."

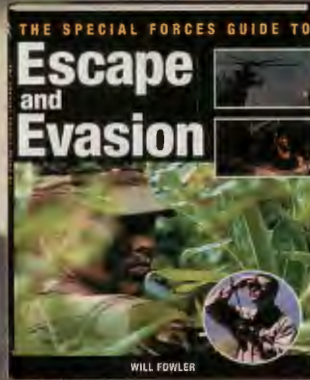
That phrase was enough to start speculation in Australia that the country's SAS would play a role in any Coalition war effort.

For his part, Rumsfeld was reluctant, at first, to consider allied participation. To be sure, having more nations on board the U.S. coalition was a good diplomatic and public relations strategy. But Rumsfeld was worried that having to consult with other countries could get in the way of the expeditious military onslaught he was about to release on the Taliban



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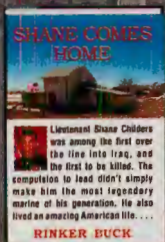
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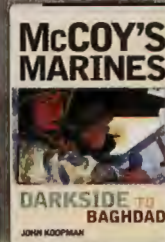
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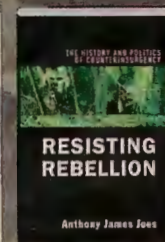
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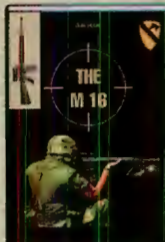
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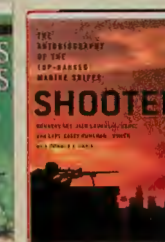
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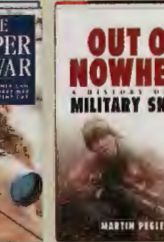
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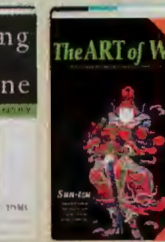
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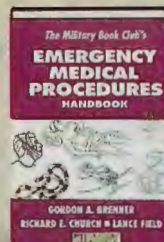


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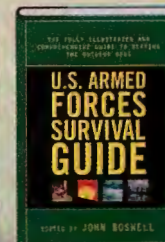


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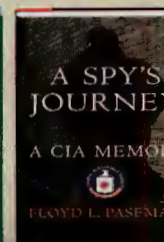
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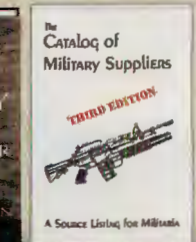
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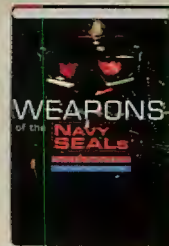
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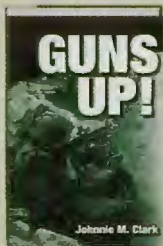
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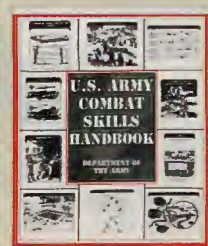
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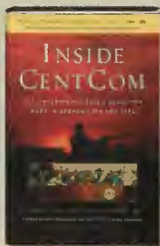
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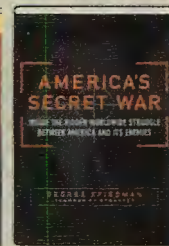
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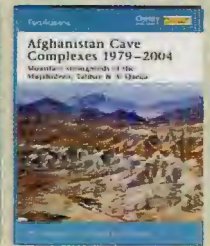
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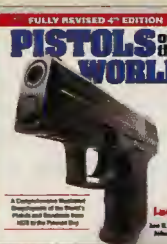
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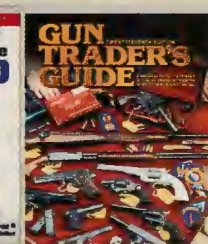
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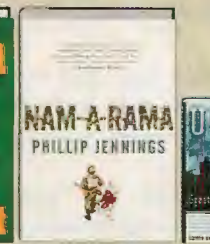
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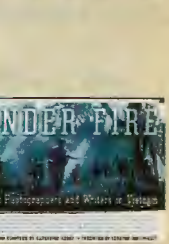
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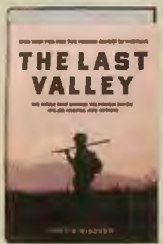
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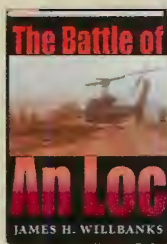
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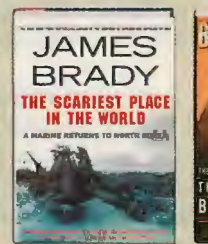
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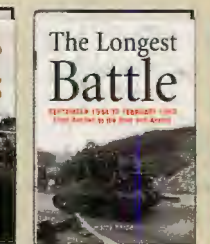
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Side view shot of the SAS 6x6 long range patrol vehicle in Afghanistan showing both the .50 calibre and 7.62 mm general purpose machine gun.

and al Qaeda. First and foremost, any foreign contributions would have to make military sense.

Rumsfeld needn't worry about that problem with the Australian SAS.

Established in 1957 and modeled on the British SAS, the 600-to 700-strong regiment had earned a solid reputation fighting guerrillas in Borneo and Vietnam. It had a respectable combat record in Southeast Asia where it had worked alongside American troops. In its six years conducting reconnaissance and ambushes in Vietnam's jungles, the SAS had confirmed kills of 492 enemy soldiers and another 106 possible kills. The cost to the regiment was one of its men killed in action and 28 seriously wounded.

More recently, the regiment's overseas deployments had been sporadic, with its operators serving in Somalia and East Timor and on various short-term missions where it appeared Australian citizens would have to be evacuated from war-torn countries.

The initial stages of this new American war on terrorism would be fought in Afghanistan, a country known for its deserts. The Americans had SOF units that could conduct long-range reconnaissance patrols in such terrain. But the Australians were acknowledged as one of the leaders in this area, having years of experience patrolling the remote regions of their own country.

Over the years, the unit – based at Campbell Barracks, Swanbourne, near Perth – had also built up strong links with the U.S. special operations community. Early in 1998, when American commandos were deploying to Kuwait to take part in a possible attack on Iraq, the Australian SAS were among the first foreign SOF units that U.S. commanders requested.

In that operation, dubbed Desert Thunder, the Americans were flexing their military muscle along Iraq's border after Saddam Hussein refused to allow United Nations inspection teams into the country. Air strikes were being planned against Iraq and the Pentagon wanted the Australian SAS in place for

the rescue of any downed British and American pilots behind enemy lines. That February, 200 to 250 SAS troopers were deployed to Kuwait to take part in the mission, but weeks later a political compromise was worked out by the UN and the situation was defused.

The SAS, however, stayed on for several months and, later, under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Rowan Tink, who would also be picked for the Afghanistan mission, the troopers conducted desert patrols and helicopter insertions using U.S. MH-47s.

The SAS learned some valuable lessons while taking part in the U.S.-led Desert Thunder coalition, a code-name later changed to Desert Spring when it became apparent that air strikes had been put on hold. During the operation, the Australians were able to improve their liaison with their American counterparts, sending two special operations officers to work at CENTCOM in Florida. Desert Spring also made it clear that some equipment needed to be upgraded, so the regiment purchased long-range patrol radios as well as adopting the U.S.-made M4 carbine.

All would be put to use in the Afghanistan mission. Less than a month after the September 11 attacks, the Australian government officially announced the deployment of its forces to support the U.S. war effort. Almost 2,000 personnel on ships and aircraft would be assigned to the theatre of operations. But Australia's most important commitment – not in numbers but certainly in the effect they would have on the ground – would be 150 of the country's SAS troopers.

In preparation for the mission, the SAS unit was issued with the Australian Army's new disruptive pattern camouflage for use in desert conditions. The uniforms were quite distinctive, being a sand-colored tan with varying shades of brown dots scattered throughout. The troops were also issued with cold-weather clothing to deal with the coming Afghanistan winter, as well as Javelin anti-armor missiles for extra firepower.

(left) An Australian SAS patrol finds out firsthand just how miserable Afghan winters can be. (right) U.S. troops and Australian SAS meet in the Afghan desert. The Americans are using the Hummer while the SAS have their long-range patrol vehicles.



Giant Russian-made Antonov cargo planes were rented to move the regiment's customized patrol vehicles to Southwest Asia. The SAS took both its six-wheel drive Long Range Patrol Vehicles (LRPVs) and four-wheel drive Land Rover 110 Series Regional Surveillance Vehicles (RSVs). Although there were some in the regiment who weren't enamored of the trucks, believing they drew undue attention to SAS operations, the "Mad Max"-style war wagons would come in handy in Afghanistan's vast deserts and desolate terrain.

firepower on the LRPV, equipped with a .50 machinegun as well as a 7.62mm MAG 58 general purpose machinegun, could be augmented by an automatic grenade launcher or a Javelin. The RSV had the general purpose machinegun as well as a Minimi machinegun. For shorter patrols, the regi-

ment also packed its six-wheel all-terrain vehicles and its moto-cross bikes.

The Australians started arriving in Afghanistan on 27 November with their first location at Forward Operations Base Rhino, some 100 kilometres southwest of Kandahar. A much larger group from 1 Squadron moved from its staging area in Kuwait to Rhino on December 2.

The Australians shared the base with the U.S. Marine Corps and they quickly became the eyes and ears for the Americans, establishing whether al Qaeda or Taliban were operating in the area.

Five- and six-man SAS patrols made their way across the Afghan desert and mountains. The country lived up to its

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Citizen Action on the Border

Responsible Citizens Monitor the Border, ACLU Reportedly Smokes Pot and Provokes Violence

By Dr. Martin Brass



The tools of the citizen observer: Spotting scope, binos, cellphone and map. Water can come in darned handy too, especially when canned beverages run low. While it is prudent to be armed, weapons should remain out of sight and unloaded to avoid alarming otherwise supportive lawmen. Lando Pope's efforts were not intended to be published but an e-mail to friends found it's way to SOF's office

The Highly Publicized Minuteman Project was organized by citizens who figured that they had to do something drastic to draw attention to out of control illegal immigration. The plan was to ask for volunteers to stand watch at the Mexico-U.S. border in Arizona for the entire month of April. The volunteers, some armed, were to spot illegal aliens and alert the Border Patrol by cell phones or radios.

"What prompted the Minuteman project? Pure frustration." Former Colorado Governor Richard Lamm who has been very outspoken on the issue of illegal immigration for two decades, said in an interview. "Citizens act if a problem is not dealt with legislatively."

"I feel that I'm fighting the Statute of Liberty. I wrote a book back in 1984, *The Immigration Time Bomb*," Gov Lamm, said with passion. "At the time I wrote the book, the issue was ho hum. But now the issue has erupted."

"Immigration is good; illegal immigration is totally unjustified, and uncontrolled; it could help to destroy our country. Eighty percent of Americans want something done," Gov Lamm said.

"Neither party was willing to take action. Year after year after year, citizens have tried to work through the political system. At Colorado Senator Wayne Allard's town hall meetings, for example, seventy percent of the questions deal with the problem of illegal immigration.

"Its like the Boston Tea Party. Now, like then, the situation has erupted. Citizens have a breaking point."

Angry American Patriots

Remember the Boston Tea Party of 16 December 1773, that infamous event that sparked the American Revolution?

The British Parliament had passed the Tea Act that allowed the nearly bankrupt British East India Company to ship tea to the colonies without paying the same taxes as the local merchants. The merchants faced bankruptcy themselves, and were convinced that the Americans would buy the tea shipped in by the company at a lower price than they could sell it for.

The colonists mobilized and decided to prevent the cargoes of the British company from landing in colonial ports. The Governor of Massachusetts, Thomas Hutchinson, would not back off—insisting that the British company tea could be unloaded in the harbor.

Fifty angry American patriots led by Samuel Adams and Paul Revere masqueraded as Mohawk Indians and stormed the vessels of the East India Company, docked in Boston harbor, and dumped 342 chests of tea into the ocean. News of the resistance spread, triggering other acts of defiance in other ports. The mischief-makers refused to pay for the tea, so England closed Boston harbor.

The resistance had taken on a life of it's own and there was no turning back. Citizens acted when the politicians wouldn't.

Big Business and Cheap Labor

"There is no moral or legal justification for allowing illegal immigration. It is an appalling, abusive form of labor. The Minutemen have taken the American temperature on the issue of illegal immigration. They are fed up with the legislature not taking action,"

"Why has the legislature not acted?" I asked

"Big Business wants cheap labor, and the consumer wants cheap prices. The big business lobby has the ear of the legislature."

I asked Gov. Lamm whether he thought that the Minuteman project had any impact.

"Their efforts *were* effective!" he said emphatically, "There's a new sense of this issue. But it has not solved the problem."

What would drive a volunteer to become a citizen border patrol?

We asked, Lando Pope (nom de guerre), a native Californian, who packed his gear and headed down to the border during the Minuteman Project to conduct some 'Gonzo Journalism'. He never joined up with the Minutemen, but he 'did his part', with a solo citizen's patrol.

"When I heard President Bush tell Mexican President Vicente Fox that the Minutemen were a bunch of 'vigilantes' and that their actions were not necessary, my blood started boiling," Pope said.

The former Marine 'mustang' who did two hitches and got out in 1993, grabbed his old Mauser, cell phone, 60x Bushnell spotting glass, and binoculars and drove through drizzling rain and blinding dust storms from L.A. to the edge of the Barry Goldwater firing range about two and a half miles north of the border, 15 miles south/southeast of Yuma.

"In 1992, I had gone down to the border at the bootheel of New Mexico with a reserve unit from Michigan. It was a total travesty. At one point, we counted 22 pickup trucks coming across the border, one behind the other. We reported it to the border patrol at Lordsburg.

"We'll arrest them tomorrow night, they said, totally disinterested."

"When the President said there wasn't a problem last month, I knew I had to go and do something, even if unaffiliated,"

L.A. Transformed

"No problem? The problem is so overwhelming the problem has completely altered the face of our country. You have a situation like when a bunch of people at a rock concert lean against the fence. At first the fence withholds the weight, but eventually it goes over "

"I had half-baked notions that the Minutemen were doing a good, if futile thing.

"Many Americans are so outraged they have to do something about it. Take Los Angeles. It is completely transformed.

Five of us Anglos live on my street in Van Nuys. We're the only English-speakers on the block. There

are between five and ten Hispanic adults in every single house on the block, renting garages, tool sheds, enclosed porches, couch space.

The only reason people can afford houses in LA is because they rent out every available space, usually to illegals.

The issue of illegal immigration is in my face every single day when I go to work.

"Everybody in L.A. is breaking the law a little bit. Street vendors selling foodstuff don't have licenses.

You've got folks offering themselves up as day labor. They stand on the corners like prostitutes waiting for someone to drive up.

They don't pay taxes. Sometimes other illegals hire more recent arrivals to work for them; sometimes established contractors pick them up.

"You go into a restaurant you've gone into your whole life, you can't communicate with people serving. You find out your friend can't work at a job site because his tools are stolen and his vehicle vandalized, or he can't afford to work because people are willing to do the job he did for five dollars. They can afford to do it because they're sending all the money back to Mexico and not paying taxes.

"It's B.S. they feed us, that the illegals are doing jobs Americans won't do. I just got back from Illinois; Americans are doing all sorts of work. They obviously didn't need Mexicans to do the work.

"On the other hand, wealthy Americans get lazy and want the conveniences provided by incredibly cheap labor.

"I'm paying for those workers' health care, for their education, for their use of the road, the use of the water, the use

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(above) Within a half hour of a citizen report being phoned in, these eight and a half illegals were arrested some two miles north of the border. Celebration was short lived. Within five minutes, another 70 were rounded up on the border itself and 25 more were spotted while catching this group.



Eyewitness Minuteman Account

By Alan Korwin

I went to the Arizona - Mexico border, with my close friend Brad Beebe, to witness for myself what was going on with the Minuteman Project (MMP). Gun rights were under a microscope, I had to look with my own eyes.

Nearly everything I had heard in the news was flat wrong. These were the most decent, friendly, dedicated, concerned bunch of people I have met. And Mexico must be far worse than the news media paints it, with 5,000 people A DAY trying to escape from there—that's worse than the communist countries experienced.

The fresh volunteers who drifted in as we arrived that morning were from Minnesota, Illinois, Louisiana, Texas, California and we were the only two from Arizona, which concerned Brad. Two women volunteers at the briefings were overheard saying, "What a great group of guys... every day, another great group."

I half expected to find a bunch of gun-toting bubbas milling around, hoping to hunt down Mexicans (the news-media perspective). Instead, I found a highly organized, quasi-military sense of command, control and communication, because the men best suited to run such a large-scale "neighborhood watch" were all ex-military, and there they were using those skills. They were able to haul out their old military training, set up a chain of command, assign people to positions on the line, and make the whole thing work. What's the next step below completely green recruits? Civilian volunteers, and that's all they had to work with. They made it work. There was no racism evident anywhere. I had no trouble getting involved.

As of 4 April, 847 Minutemen have volunteered, and 330 captures have been made by the Border Patrol (BP) due to MMP reports, according to an MMP supervisor.

A BP captain informed us they had caught a total of 268,000 "illegals" (the word people use down there) from Oct. 2004 thru April 25, 2005 (that's roughly 1,300 per day; their fiscal year starts in Oct.) About 20,000 of these were OTMs, the BP captain's term for "other than Mexicans," and he wouldn't reveal how many were from terrorist watchlist nations.

The Problem

The Minuteman Project is taking place because so many thousands of people are pouring across our border daily, trashing the countryside on their way, and mocking the idea that our country has a border. People living near the border, like *Tombstone Tumbleweed* newspaper publisher Chris Simcox, who is a main organizer here, are taking the brunt of the swarming mobs, and simply reached their limit.

The people sneak in without passports—remember that word, passport? In most foreign nations, if you're found without one, you're in a world of hurt, and rightfully so, but not here. The situation is dangerous, illegal, humiliating, and out of control. One of the core reasons for having a federal government is to protect our borders. The feds are failing miserably, giving us lip service, and in near total dereliction of this fundamental constitutional duty.

Among this invading horde, according to the BP, are hardened thugs, repeat-offender felons, people-smugglers known as "coyotes," drug runners, and of course, many hard-work-

ing decent people trying to improve their lot. Mexico, with a corruption-riddled government, lousy economy, and abject contempt for civil liberties is a place people want to escape from. They're not stupid. They recognize the wealth and opportunity Americans have created north of their depressed (and depressing) land, and they are storming up in non-stop droves. We send them back, and they turn right around and attempt illegal entry again and again. I also heard there are sex-slave traffickers, but that's a rumor I was not able to personally corroborate.

Ground Rules

1. Avoid Contact.

2. **Observe and report.** Note how many illegals you observed, how many men, women, children. Are any in apparent need of medical help, we don't want people to suffer. What are they wearing, are they carrying babies, or anything else, especially backpacks which would be indicative of drug smuggling. Which way are they headed. Then call BP by cell phone—everyone was given the emergency response phone numbers—and your job is done. We were to assist the BP, not to be the BP. We were not freelance police, we were observers. We were not protecting a spot. After BP arrives, leave promptly so they needn't include you in their report, which undesirably increases their workload.

3. **Be respectful.** Joining up with this team, it became each person's responsibility to project a good clean image. This was a joy. It was a point of pride. It made Brad and I walk tall. And it was easy, because everywhere we went, people gushed with thanks and congratulations on the good work we were doing. They were delighted that the project had been created, and that the flood of illegals, at least for the time being, had stopped. More than one person said they were getting better sleep because the dogs weren't barking all night long. A few started out in whispers, then gradually, enthusiastically, revealed stories of their own contact with the illegals, for as long as they had a Minuteman's ear.

4. **Avoid the news media and the ACLU.** The dirty tricks that had been tried were blood curdling. The news media could, and many did, take anything you might say and twist it for sensationalism, and to make the MMP look bad. You've read the news reports these people generated, how closely does that match the eyewitness report I'm giving you here? The solution the organizers applied was to avoid giving them unwitting support.

5. **On the line, all guns stay holstered.** Don't show it off, examine it, clean it, fix it, load it, lube it, take it out for any reason, except to save your life, if that becomes immediately necessary. In the unlikely event that you are shot at from across the border, do not return fire, duck, and leave. No exceptions, zero tolerance, and no long guns on the line. This is Arizona, and wearing a gun (literally, "bearing arms") is perfectly legal (as it ought to be in all states). The news media has showed an unethical, totally anti-rights bias on this point, using ridicule and derision. What better place to exercise this right than in a notoriously bad neighborhood, with illegal hordes and criminals streaming in. Since you were supposed to avoid all contact and depart if approached, all guns stayed holstered. More than half of the people I saw were armed, a comforting

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sight all things considered, and more than half of those carried revolvers. Our trainer made it clear that we were being watched very closely—the whole world was watching—and the last thing we needed was to give these people, and the media's bigots, any excuse at all to malign the good work we had set out to do.

6. Do not step over the border into Mexico. If you do, and are caught, you can be arrested and spend two years in a Mexican prison. They don't have a revolving door immigration policy like we do. The rules were clear, with no wiggle room.

What It Isn't

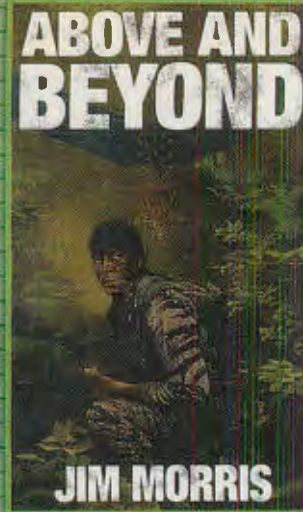
It isn't racism, the KKK, skinheads, Nazis, bullies, bubbas, yahoos or most anything else the news media, and especially hyperventilating editorial writers, have claimed. Most especially it is not vigilantism. Vigilantes take the law into their own hands. As observers, that was not remotely our role. Vigilantes are by definition bad. Being vigilant, on the other hand, is something the Dept. of Homeland Security has asked all Americans to be, and it's smart. We were complying. That felt good. Surprisingly good.

Despite media reports, the MMP isn't hated by the Border Patrol. It's just the opposite—the BP union publicly stated that they welcomed the support, and that the MMP was effective, courteous and doing good (U.S. Border Patrol Local 2544, their statement is at the end of this report). The official BP position is that they have no position, and do not support the effort. Privately, tacitly, it was obvious we were not hated, even though our presence complicated some of BP's tasks—just look at all that news media they have had to deal with and navigate around. And the lack of illegals has left some of the agents, well, bored.

We got more simple rules. No drinking while on duty, stay 100% clear. No drugs. Anyone noticing a violation was to inform leadership for the benefit of the whole project, and violators would be dismissed. But we all wanted this to work, so it was not a problem as far as I could tell.

We were issued badges—paper convention-style badges in plastic sleeves, with "Minuteman Project," our names in plain view, and "Tumbleweed Correspondent" on the reverse.

We were left with about an hour to
Continued on page 38



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The Actions Behind *Direct Action*

or "You Should Write A Book About It"

By John Weisman

About two-and-a-half years ago, a retired CIA contact of mine—I'll give him the pseudonym Edward C. STIGGINS—told me that in the mid-1990s he'd had a part in writing the internal damage assessment Langley had conducted in the wake of the Aldrich Ames debacle. Aldrich Hazen Ames, for those of you who may have forgotten, is the traitorous turncoat CIA officer who betrayed dozens of CIA's precious Soviet human assets and turned over untold quantities of information concerning America's intelligence operations, sources, and methods to the Russians—for cash.

One ambitious way to solve the hemorrhage caused by Ames, STIGGINS said, would have been to create a new and wholly clandestine directorate of operations within the existing directorate of operations. "Completely sterile. New people, new compartments, new everything."

STIGGINS paused. "Of course Deutch would never have gone for it—it was far too risky a concept for Deutch and his people." Deutch was John M. Deutch, Bill Clinton's director of central intelligence. And Deutch's people were deputy DCI George Tenet and executive director "Tora-Tora" Nora Slatkin, neither of whom had any background in running or overseeing real-world intelligence operations or personnel before they'd been appointed to their jobs.

Neither, for that matter, did Deutch, a tall, bumbling, angular, bookish MIT professor of chemistry and Pentagon bureaucrat who'd had no experience at all in the smoke-and-mirrors world of intelligence and espionage prior to his selection as the chief of America's spy apparatus. STIGGINS put his wine glass down. "It was a good idea—a small, nimble, aggressive covert DO inside the big, sluggish, bureaucratic overt DO." He looked at me slyly. "And wouldn't *that* make one hell of a book."

In December of 2003 I was sitting in Les Gourmets des Ternes, a restaurant on the boulevard de Courcelles in Paris.

I was lunching with an Iranian contact I will call Shahram Shahristani. Shahristani is a former one-star general in the Iranian Army. Under the shah, he ran one of Iran's top-line military intelligence units.

"I will tell you something CIA doesn't know," Shahram said between bites of sole *meunière*. "Imad Mugnyyah visited Gaza in the past year. On behalf of the *Seppah*—the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps."

I hadn't heard a whisper and told

his name. An Iranian officer. For years he was liaison between Arafat and the Revolutionary Guard Corps. He worked with Imad Mugnyyah. Lately, he has become disenchanted. I heard about Mugnyyah from him."

Shahristani put his fork down. "But to your CIA I am *persona non grata*." Shahristani poured himself some Evian water and sipped. "CIA," he said, "is rotten clear through. All they do at Paris station is sit around writing emails to each other. The place should be burned to the ground and razed." He put his Evian down and stared at me, his eyes intense. "You should write a book about it."

Soon after I got back from Paris I went to a cocktail party in Northern Virginia. I fell into conversation with a CIA annuitant I know casually. I'll call him Walter S. MORRIS. In 2002, MORRIS returned to Langley on a contract basis to help train non official cover intelligence officers, commonly referred to as NOCs. Unlike the case officers who work under official cover, NOCs work without a net.

"How's it going?" I asked MORRIS. "You still at Langley?"

"Nah," he said. "You have no idea how bad things are these days. I bailed."

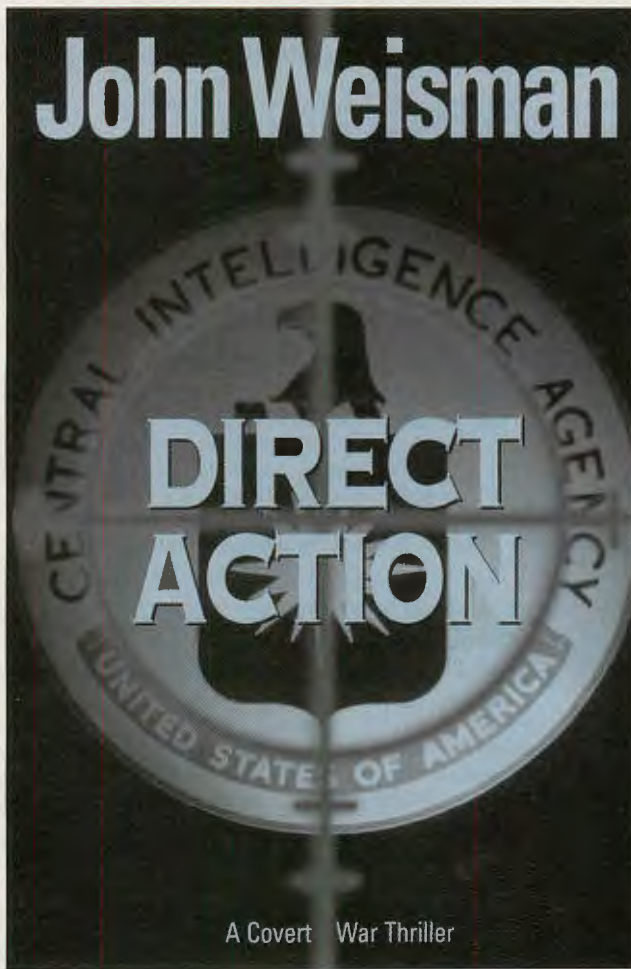
That was an opening wide enough to drive a six-by-through. "Like, how bad is it?"

"It took us some time, but we were able to identify a sizeable number of potentially ideal NOC candidates," MORRIS said. "They were exactly the sort of people we need the most these days. They were all foreign born and so they

had native-speaker language capability. They all held dual citizenship, and best of all, they all had current passports for their former countries. They could—and they did—come and go. They were exactly the sort of covert intelligence officers the 9/11 Commission had recommended in its report."

"Sounds terrific."

"It was terrific. All we needed was money—a supplementary funding package for their training."



him so. "Still, it is true," he said. "He was there to coordinate the creation of Hezbollah cells in Gaza and the West Bank. Hezbollah terrorists will work alongside Fatah's al Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, Hamas, and Islamic Jihad."

That caught my attention. After Usama bin Laden, Imad Mugnyyah is the most wanted terrorist in the world. "From whom did you hear this, Shahram?"

"There is a man," he said. "Said is

That made sense. Dual nationals must be kept under ultra deep-cover. Ideally, you don't send dual-national NOCs to the Farm, which is the commonly used *sobriquet d'espionage* for Camp Peary, CIA's massive clandestine training facility near Williamsburg, Virginia. Basic Common-sense OPSEC dictates that dual national NOCs be treated specially: trained in secret, one by one, in safe houses and in total isolation. They should never go near Langley. They should never mix with anyone from the clandestine service except for their handlers.

I looked at MORRIS. "They must have been ecstatic."

MORRIS shook his head, "I was told there'd be no supplemental unless we took every one of these people to Langley and blue-badged them first. I was told they'd never be trusted unless they were formally brought in and sworn."

"Whose decision was that?"

MORRIS drained his gin on the rocks and rolled his eyes skyward. "My guess? Seventh floor. But who knows for sure. And then I heard they wanted to train the NOCs as a group—send them all down to the Farm." He shook his head. "The place is completely dysfunctional." He looked at me. "You should write a book."

There are still some good people at CIA. Hardworking, talented, and dedicated. Unfortunately, for most of the past couple of decades, they have been led by bunglers, bureaucrats, incompetents, naifs, amateurs and dilettantes. CIA's downward spiral began with Jimmy Carter's director of central intelligence, Admiral Stansfield Turner. There was a brief respite during the tenure of William J. Casey, but after Casey's death the decline continued precipitously under William H. Webster and Robert M. Gates. The cautious Judge Webster was known in-house as "the stealth DCI." Gates, a career analyst who was well-known within CIA circles to detest the directorate of operations, instituted a DO personnel policy he called "cross-fertilization," under which analysts, reports officers and even secretaries were brought into the DO as case officers.

R. James Woolsey, President Bill Clinton's first DCI, may not have been an incompetent, but he couldn't get an appointment at the White House. In fact, after a deranged individual named Frank Eugene Corder stole a small airplane and crashed it into the southwest corner of the Executive Mansion directly below the president's bedroom in 1994, wags at Langley joked that the pilot had

in fact been Woolsey, making one last desperate attempt to see Clinton.

In 1995, in the wake of the Ames scandal, Clinton replaced Woolsey with John Deutch. And Deutch named as his deputy George Tenet. And with them came *le déluge*.

So by the time Tenet politicked his way into the CIA directorship in July of 1997, the directorate of operations was already a shambles. But Tenet burnt it to the ground. Here's a *partial*—and I emphasize the word—list of SNAFUs, TARFUs, and FUBARs that occurred on Tenet's watch, either as director or as deputy director.

So as not to offend a politically correct Congress, Langley jettisoned scores of productive agents because they had committed alleged human rights violations or had criminal records. Valuable networks—including the sorts of agents capable of penetrating terrorist cells, totalitarian governments, and narco-organizations—were lost.

Rationalizing that with the Cold War over and it was time to save money, CIA either closed down many of its Sub-Saharan African stations or staffed them with annuitants. Langley also shut down many of CIA's bases in Western European cities. The result? CIA became

increasingly deaf, dumb, and blind at the same time al Qaeda was expanding its operational turf to include Western Europe and Africa.

The DO, larded through as it was with scores of Gates's "cross-fertilization" personnel, became less and less capable of performing its core mission—spotting, assessing, developing, and recruiting spies on behalf of the United States. But Tenet did little to remedy the situation, with the result that CIA became hugely dependent on its liaison relationships with other intelligence agencies for handouts of human-sourced intelligence.

And how did all those missteps play out on the world stage?

The Indians tested a nuclear weapon, but CIA knew nothing about it.

CIA mistakenly bombed the Chinese embassy in Belgrade.

North Korea started reprocessing spent nuclear fuel rods but CIA was in the dark until the North Koreans themselves announced what they'd done.

Al Qaeda was able to launch well-planned simultaneous attacks on American embassies in Kenya and Tanzania, and against the USS *Cole* in Yemen.

On 11 September 2001, thousands

Continued on page 79

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Col. David H. Hackworth, 1930-2005

Legendary U.S. Army Guerrilla Fighter, Champion of the Grunt

Washington, D.C., 5 May 2005 – Colonel David H. Hackworth, 74, the United States Army's legendary, highly decorated guerrilla fighter and lifelong champion of the combat soldier died Wednesday in Mexico. The cause of death was a form of cancer now appearing with increasing frequency among Vietnam veterans exposed to the defoliants called Agents Orange and Blue.

Col. Hackworth spent more than 50 years on the country's hottest battlefields, first as a soldier, then as a writer, war correspondent and sharp-eyed critic of the Military-Industrial Complex and ticket-punching generals he dismissed as "Perfumed Princes."

He preferred the combat style of World War II and Korean War heroes like James Gavin and Matthew Ridgeway and, during Vietnam, of Hank "The Gunfighter" Emerson and Hal Moore. General Moore, the co-author of *We Were Soldiers Once and Young*, called him "the Patton of Vietnam," and Gen. Creighton Abrams, the last American commander in that disastrous war, described him as "the best battalion commander I ever saw in the United States Army."

Col. Hackworth's battlefield exploits puts him next to Sergeants Alvin York and Audie Murphy. The novelist Ward Just, who knew him for 40 years, described him as "the genuine article, a soldier's soldier, and a connoisseur of combat."

At 14, as World War II was sputtering out, he lied about his age to join the Merchant Marine, and at 15 he enlisted in the U.S. Army. Over the next 26 years he spent seven in combat. He was recommended for the Medal of Honor three times; the last application is currently under review at the Pentagon. He was twice awarded the Army's second highest honor for valor, the Distinguished Service Cross, along with 10 Silver Stars and eight Bronze Stars. He always said he was proudest of his eight Purple Hearts and his Combat Infantryman's Badge.

A reputation won on the battlefield made it impossible to dismiss him when he went on the attack later as a critic of careerism and incompetence in the military high command. In 1971, he appeared in the field on ABC's "Issue and Answers" to say Vietnam "is a bad war ... it can't be won. We need to get out." He also predicted that Saigon would fall to the North Vietnamese within four years, a prediction that turned out to be far more accurate than anything the Joint Chiefs of Staff were telling President Nixon or that the President was telling

the American people.

With almost five years in-country, Col. Hackworth was the only senior officer to sound off about the Vietnam War. After the interview, he retired from the Army and moved to Australia.

"He was perhaps the finest soldier of his generation," observed the novelist and war correspondent Nicholas Profitt, who described Col. Hackworth's combat autobiography, *About Face*, a national best-seller, as "a passionate cry from the heart of a man who never stopped loving the Army, even when it stopped loving him back."

Having risen from private by way of a battlefield commission in Korea, where he became the Army's youngest captain, to Vietnam, where he served as its youngest bird colonel, he never stood on rank.

He always credited his success in battle to the training he received from the tough school of non-coms who won World War II, hard-bitten, hard-drinking, hard-fighting sergeants who drilled into him the basics of an infantryman's life: Sweat in training cuts down on blood shed in battle; There was nothing wrong with being out all night so long as you were present for roll call at 5 a.m., on your feet and in shape to run five miles before breakfast in combat boots.

In Korea, where he won his first Silver Star and Purple Heart before he was old enough to vote, he started his combat career in what he later called a "kill a commie for mommie" frame of mind. He was among the first volunteers for Korea and later for Vietnam, where he perfected his skill. "He

understood the atmosphere of violence," Ward Just observed. "That meant he knew how to keep his head, to think in danger's midst. In battle the worst thing is paralysis. He mastered his own fear and learned how to kill. He led by example, and his men followed."

Just met him in the ruins of a base camp in the Central Highlands in 1966, where he was a major commanding a battalion of the 101st Airborne. "He was compact, with forearms the size of hams. His uniform was filthy and his use of obscenity was truly inventive." What struck the journalist most forcefully was "his enthusiasm, his magnetism, his exuberance, his invincible cheerfulness."

To young officers in Vietnam and long afterwards, he presented an unforgettable profile in courage. "Everyone called



him Hack," recalled Dennis Foley, a military historian and novelist who first saw him in action with the 1st Battalion of the 327th Infantry in 1965. "He was referred to by his radio call sign of 'Steel Six.' He was tough, demanding and boyish all at the same time, stocky with a slightly leathery complexion. His light hair and deep tan made it hard for us to tell how old he was. He wore jungle fatigue trousers, shower shoes, a green T-shirt and a Rolex watch. In the corner of his mouth was a large and foul smelling cigar. As we entered the tent, he was bent over a field table looking at a map overlay and drinking a bottle of San Miguel beer."

With Gen. S.L.A. "Slam" Marshall, he surveyed the war's early mayhem and compiled the Army's experience into a bible on a style of unconventional counter-guerrilla tactics he called "out gee-ing the G." His finest moment came when he applied these tactics, taking the hopeless 4/39 Infantry Battalion in the Mekong Delta, turning it into the legendary Hardcore Battalion. The men of the demoralized outfit saw him at first as a crazy "lifer" out to get them killed. For a time they even put a price on his head and waited for the first grunt to frag him.

Within 10 weeks, the fiery young combat leader had so transformed the 4/39 that it was routing main force enemy units. He led from the front, at one point getting out on the strut of a helicopter, landing on top of an enemy position and hauling to safety the point elements of a company pinned down and facing certain death. Thirty years later, the grateful enlisted men and young officers of the 4/39, now grown old, are still urging the Pentagon to award him the Medal of Honor for this action. So far, the Army has refused.

On leaving the Army, Col. Hackworth retired to a farm on the Australian Gold Coast near Brisbane. He became a business entrepreneur, making a small fortune in real estate, then expanding a highly popular restaurant called Scaramouche.

As *About Face* was becoming a best seller, he returned to the United States to marry Eilhys England, his one great love, who became his business and writing partner. He became a powerful voice for military reform. From 1990 to 1996, as *Newsweek* magazine's Contributing editor for defense, he covered the first Gulf War as well as peacekeeping battles in Somalia, the Balkans, Korea and Haiti. He captured this experience

in a volume of war dispatches. Among his many awards as a journalist was the George Washington Honor Medal for excellence in communications. He also wrote a novel, *Price of Honor*, about the snares of Vietnam, Somalia and the Military-Industrial Complex. His last book, *Steel My Soldiers' Hearts*, was a tribute to the men of the Hardcore Battalion.

He was a regular guest on national radio and TV shows and a regular contributor to magazines including *People*, *Parade*, *Men's Journal*, *Self*, *Playboy*, *Maxim* and *Soldier of Fortune Magazine*. His column, "Defending America," has appeared weekly in newspapers across the country and on the website of *Soldiers For The Truth*, a rallying point for military reform. He and Ms. England have been the driving force behind the organization, which defends the interests of ordinary soldiers while upholding Hack's conviction that "nuke-the-pukes" solutions no longer work in an age of terror that demands "a streamlined, hard-hitting force for the twenty-first century."

"Hack never lost his focus," said Roger Charles, president of *Soldiers for the Truth*. "That focus was on the young kids that our country sends to bleed and die on our behalf. Everything he did in his retirement was to try to give them a better chance to win and to come home. That's one hell of a legacy."

Over the final years of Col. Hackworth's life, his wife Eilhys fought beside him during his gallant battle against bladder cancer, which now appears with sinister regularity among Vietnam veterans exposed to Agent Blue. At one point he considered dropping their syndicated column, only to make an abrupt about face, saying, "Writing with you is the only thing that keeps me alive." The last words he said to his doctor were, "If I die, tell Eilhys I was grateful for every moment she bought me, every extra moment I got to spend with her. Tell her my greatest achievement is the love the two of us shared."

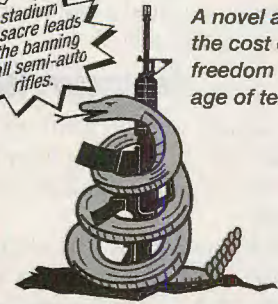
He was buried in Arlington National Cemetery with full military honors. ❧

Soldiers For The Truth is now working on legal action to compel the Pentagon to recognize Agent Blue alongside the better-known Agent Orange as a killer and to help veterans exposed to it during the Vietnam War. Memorial contributions can be sent to *Soldiers For The Truth* either through www.sftt.org or by mail to, P.O. Box 54365, Irvine, California, 92619-4365.

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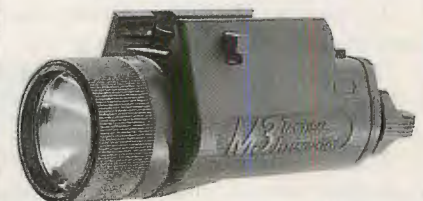
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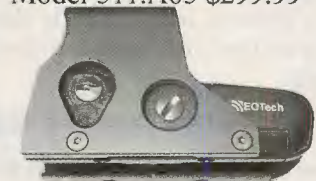
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The scouts, who had been engaged in the firefight for more than two and a half hours, watched as the CH-47 Chinook aborted the landing and flew away.

"You can't imagine how scary it is to be in a fire fight like this and after two and a half hours of fighting, to see the support leave," Ortiz said.

Paratroopers Land In Hot LZ

"The scouts were in contact and at that point we were a QRF," said 1st Lt. Les Craig from Erie, Pa., and platoon leader of 1st Platoon, or the "Bullies" as they are called by Chosen Company.

Chosen Company is part of 2nd Battalion, 503rd Infantry (Airborne), who were operating in the area. The 2-503rd was part of the Southern European Task Force originally based in Vicenza, Italy, and now part of CJTF-76 in Afghanistan.

"We got reports that the landing zone was hot while we were in the air," said Craig. "The other friendly forces that had landed were already in contact."

The helicopter finally was able to land and 1st Platoon's "Bullies" poured from the Chinook ready to relieve the embattled scouts.

Although 1st Platoon didn't receive any immediate fire, suspicious activity was all around.

"I was trying to get a feel of where our Soldiers were," said Craig.

"We knew there were bad guys but we didn't know where they were," said Sgt. 1st Class David Cavataio, the Bullies' platoon sergeant from Chicago. "We set up security and started pushing up."

Taliban Takes Cover In Village

Soon after setting up an over-watch position, insurgent forces were spotted.

"When we got clearance and confirmation that they had weapons, we opened fire, but they opened up on us at the same time and the exchange started," Cavataio said.

The plan was to systematically clear one of the nearby villages of danger, explained Craig.

"From the south part of the town, we began clearing the village from east to west," said Craig. "There were high walls and locked doors everywhere."

The Taliban had sealed the village to make it difficult for Coalition Forces to clear by barricading and locking all doors and gates. The platoon had to make use of sappers to get through the mud hut maze.

The platoon, left with little choice, bypassed clearing the hamlet and pushed through to the edge of the village into an orchard.

Platoon Takes RPG, Machine-Gun Fire

Craig's Soldiers received a volley of rocket propelled grenades wounding Pfc. Mathew King in the leg.

"The round didn't explode," said Craig. "The fins cut into his leg and the round landed ten to fifteen feet in front of me and the RTO (Soldier carrying the radio)."

Craig and his men continued to move forward through withering machine gun fire seeking cover behind trees and rocks.

"I thought, 'the only way we will get through this is if we push forward,'" said Craig. "It was raining branches in the orchard. My RTO tried to move forward and when he got up, a tree basically fell on him."

The paratroopers were pinned down until a machine gunner put down enough suppressive fire for the Soldiers to move forward toward the enemy.

"Specialist Lewis fired a 200-round burst and that bought us a couple of seconds to bum rush the objective," Craig said. "We approached the enemy but we thought all the guys were already engaged because no one was responding."

Creek Bed Enables Surprise Approach

The element closed in on the enemy undetected, moving parallel to a sunken creek with steep rocky slopes.

As the team moved past the bunker to make a limit of advance, Capt. Dirk Riggerberg, Chosen Company's commander, moved into Choay's old position between the wall and the bunker. Chosen's commander received fire from a well-concealed position along the creek wall.

An alert M-249 Squad Automatic Weapon gunner moved to into position and ended the fight.

By the end of the battle, more than 17 enemy combatants had been confirmed killed by Chosen Company, nine captured and more possibly killed by the 2-503rd scouts.

Enemy Ferocity Surprised Some

"I expected there to be stiff resistance but not as severe as this," said Riggerberg.

Chosen Company's first sergeant, though, said he wasn't surprised by the enemies' dedication.

"They've been fighting for so many years," said 1st Sgt. Scott Brzak. "They have nothing to lose and everything to gain."

The effect the battle has had on his Soldiers is a positive one, said Brzak.

"The Soldiers now know that they can depend on and trust the buddy to the left and right of them," Brzak said. "They know their buddy will lay down their life for them. They also now know how the enemy operates and can pass this experience on to the rest of the company and the battalion."

After-Action Report Positive

All wounded ANP and U.S. Soldiers were evacuated to Kandahar Airfield for medical treatment. They were reported in stable condition. Two U.S. wounded Soldiers were treated and returned to duty. The other four Soldiers were transported to Landstuhl Medical Center in Germany for further treatment and are reportedly in stable condition.

Six insurgents were detained and questioned. The village leader was also detained after villagers reported him as a Taliban member.

Coalition forces are also meeting with local leaders to coordinate assistance to the village.

A number of questions have been raised as to the significance of the battle. The ferocity with which the insurgent fighters defended their position is atypical of the hit and run and improvised explosive device tactics the Taliban had been using since being removed from power.

"This is going to force them to rethink their strategy," Riggerberg said. "I think our tactics will force them to fight and die or surrender. I think we put them on their heels. They now know that the American Army still has the energy to hunt them down." ✕

(Editor's note: The Army News Service added information to Pfc. Jon Arguello's story from a CJTF-76 news release and telephonic reports from Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan.)

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ChamberSafe

As rifles in beat cars become common, questions with regard to the weapon's status, while the rifle is kept in the car, keep coming up. For rifles that are not under the police officer's direct control, but which still need to be in a relatively high state of readiness, "Transport Mode" and the ChamberSafe device are available.

"Safety" and "readiness" are mutually antagonistic: The more safe a gun is, the less ready, and the more ready, the less safe. Any serious firearm must be kept in a condition that is a reasonable compromise between the two extremes, commensurate with circumstances and the job the gun is expected to do. Modes

can then be upgraded or downgraded, as changing circumstances warrant. A gun that is acutely ready is acutely dangerous. Conversely, any gun that is "perfectly safe" is perfectly useless. You can't have it both ways!

The purpose for the following "mode drill" is to help students to organize their thinking, so that poor judgment and blunders, born of confusion, can be reduced.

Some police officers have been trained to configure the firearms in the following modes:

STORAGE MODE: There is no ammunition in the weapon. The bolt should be forward with the hammer down (for long-term storage). Storage mode is appropriate for weapons being prepared for non-accessible storage, such as in a gun safe or any other storage situation where rapid access is not a requirement. In storage mode, the rifle unloaded, and the magazine is removed or voided if it cannot be removed. As noted above, for long-term storage all springs should be at rest, so the hammer is down (dry fired) on an empty chamber.

TRANSPORT MODE: Transport mode is intended, as described above, for unattended weapons that are kept close at hand but not carried on the person. The rifle is not under the officer's direct control, but it is still intended to be readily accessible and available for defensive purposes on short notice. In transport mode, the chamber is empty. The bolt is in battery (all the way forward), and the hammer is down (dry fired) as is the case with storage mode. But, in transport mode, a fully-charged magazine is inserted in the magazine well and locked in place. The manual safety is in the "off" position. The gun is thus inert, but it can be quickly rendered ready to fire by simply reciprocating the bolt.

CARRY MODE: Carry mode is appropriate only if the weapon is being continuously carried on the person and is thus

under the operator's constant, direct control. In carry mode, the rifle is immediately ready for use. A round is in the chamber, bolt in battery, hammer cocked, and a magazine is inserted, locked in, and fully charged. The manual safety is in the "on" position.

A slung rifle is not directly analogous to a holstered pistol. Most holstered pistols have their trigger and trigger guard protected and inaccessible – not so with slung rifles. Slung rifles have a profoundly exposed trigger and trigger guard and are free to flop about. They are not held rigidly in place as is the case with a holstered pistol. Thus, slung rifles must have the manual safety continuously in the "on" position, and safeties must be checked often to be sure they stay on.

ENGAGEMENT MODE: Engagement mode is the condition of the longarm when it is held at eye level and mounted on the shoulder. There is a high likelihood that the rifle will have to be fired on short notice, or, it has already been fired and well may have to be fired again. A fully charged magazine is inserted; chamber loaded; hammer cocked; manual safety in the "off" position; bolt in battery. The only difference between "carry mode" and "engagement mode" is that the manual safety is pushed from the "on" position to the "off" position as one goes from the former to the latter.

An issue that rears its head within police departments is the fact that most military rifles, in any of the above modes, look the same! One cannot tell, from outward appearance, what mode the rifle is in. Enter a clever, and inexpensive, device called "ChamberSafe," invented and marketed by good friend and distinguished rifleman, Chief Jeff Chudwin.

ChamberSafe is a one-piece, synthetic chamber probe, attached to a large, and highly visible, pull ring. ChamberSafe is intended as a disposable, but in-

Continued on page 78

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Now, more than ever.

By Dr. Martin Brass

AMERICA AT WAR

1. THAILAND **ECONOMIC DEVASTATION** results from terrorist activities. Tourism, a major source of income, is dying after martial law is declared.

4. UNITED STATES **OSAMA BIN LADEN'S HEAD** alleged ordered to be delivered in a box of dry ice while other al Qaeda Terrorists heads were to be hoisted on pikes, former U.S. spy Gary Schroen quotes his orders after 9-11. *AFP*

IMMIGRANTS and **TOURISTS** without visas must have biometric machine-readable passport: **AIRLINES** will be fined \$3,300 per breach. **BRIT** convicted of attempting to sell shoulder-launched missiles to terrorist group targeting airlines. **SOCOM** to expand by 2,300 in four years, adding 100 SEALs, 500 SpecOps and civil officials.

STEVEN MICHAEL EKBERG admits to possessing three vials of ricin, now facing up to 10 years in the slammer.

2. PHILIPPINES **MILITARY AND MILF** leadership agree to create autonomous Islamic Moro administrative region.

3. INDONESIA **ISLAMIC TERRORIST UNIT** sponsors military training for Islamic operatives on island of JAVA, purpose unknown.

5. COLOMBIA **LARGE MILITARY** ops grind down FARC... Military better trained... FARC loses much popular support.

6. VENEZUELA **FARC BASES** established. FARC bribes corrupt officials, military and police in exchange for security. **PRESIDENT CHAVEZ** and administration accused of supporting rebel movements in neighboring Colombia, Ecuador and Peru.

7. GERMANY **MILITARY DETACHMENT** deployed to train and equip first Iraqi army engineer battalion. **IRAQI MILITARY** officials attend German military training centers.

8. TURKEY **OUT OF THE CLOSET:** Israel-Turkey military and intelligence cooperation, long hidden, is becoming publicized as Turkish Prime Minister visits Israel and government invests hundreds of millions in Israeli UAVs.

9. EGYPT **VEILED SUICIDE:** Muslim women shoot up tour bus then kill themselves. Two tourists wounded. One of the dead terrorists' fiancé leaps from overpass with explosives, killing himself and wounding seven. **AZZAM BRIGADE** claims responsibility, saying the attacks were payback for Sinai bombings and arrests of Palestinians.

10a. LEBANON **LEBANESE GUERRILLAS** exchange fire with Israeli army.

10b. ISRAEL **HARDLINER** Yuval Diskin, who promotes policy of killing Palestinian militants with missile strikes, sworn in as head of the formidable Shin Bet security service. AP

11. SYRIA **TROOPS STATIONED IN LEBANON** to be placed on Syria-Iraq border to stop flow of arms and terrorists into Iraq.

12. IRAQ **"MELTING POT FOR JIHADISTS** from around the globe:" Young Saudi Muslims who "awakened" after 9-11 are the largest group of "martyr" terrorists. *Washington Post* **SUICIDE BOMBINGS** have nearly doubled recently, with civilians being increasingly targeted: 50 killed and 100 wounded in three simultaneous killings. Terrorist recruits not organized, some mentally ill, are convinced to kill themselves, others carry or drive explosives then split the scene. U.S. Marines raid border camps, killing 125 terrorists and capturing 40 militants and stashes of weapons. Nine marines killed, 40 wounded. **ELITE PRIVATE ARMY** of up to 20,000 now guard diplomats, government officials and NGO officials.

13. SAUDI ARABIA **TAKEN OUT:** Moroccan mastermind who orchestrated bombing of three residential compounds in Saudi Arabia that killed 24 in 2003, taken out in gun battle with security forces.

14. UZBEKISTAN **INSURRECTIONS** result in 700 deaths and thousands wounded when Islamic President Karimov orders his security forces to shoot down rioters. U.S. sanctions government and supports democracy movements.

15. AFGHANISTAN **BLOODY RIOTS** follow bogus Newsweek reports that interrogators at Guantanamo Bay put Ku'rans in toilets and "flushed a holy book down the toilet." **VIOLENT DEMONSTRATORS** chanting "Death to America" kill 13, injure 100. **IRRESPONSIBLE** journalism, held responsible for resulting deaths.

16. PAKISTAN **INSURGENTS** plan assassination of President Musharraf and attacks on foreigners. Al Qaeda chief Abu Faraj al Libbi and eleven associates, accused of two previous assassination attempts, arrested.

17. SOMALIA **SAFE HAVEN** as "ungoverned space" offers refuge for terrorists operating from Africa and Asia, welcoming fugitives from Afghanistan and Pakistan. African Union deploys 1,700 peacekeepers to quell anarchy left by government-in-exile, now in Kenya.

get from Tombstone to Palominas, with its commanding view of Mexican border country. It's a no-stop-light town, just a stretch of Highway 92 with a diner on it, a few homes, and a Bible College. We grabbed buffalo burgers and bought T-shirts ("Unauthorized Border Patrol Agent," and I got the hat too) that some enterprising individuals had in a box, then went outside for more orientation under a tree. We met the line supervisors, men with experience from WWII, Korea and Vietnam, selflessly dedicated to this cause. Aw admit it, they thoroughly enjoyed dusting off their hard-won skills and putting them to good use. They practically salivated when they heard that two brothers had brought along a 4x night-vision scope.

Working The Line

All the news reports talk about protecting a 23-mile stretch of the border. The defensive lines were actually about three miles long in two places, on the main smuggling corridors. Land in between had homes, ranches, was covered by the Border Patrol, who had vehicles in constant motion. The MMP organizers had a severe limitation, because they had to operate on land where the public had a right to be. They cleared this with authorities and scrupulously toed the law. This turned out to be the right-of-way east of a northbound stretch of the highway, some private land with permission of the landowners, and open desert directly adjacent to the Mexican border.

The Naco (rhymes with taco) line, further east, is bare desert with only low desert vegetation. No illegals were observed by any Minutemen during our watch, we have effectively shut

down the traffickers, for now.

After coming across from Mexico, the illegals had to get across 92, and some did it at the foothills of the Huachuca Mountains, for several reasons. The folds of the range and its foliage provided cover. More important, the culverts, large and small water tunnels under the highway, gave them a way across so they couldn't be easily spotted on the road. We took positions at every culvert and points in between. Brad and I were at position 9 the whole time.

All the land across 92 from our lines is private, so we had instructions not to cross the road. However, one tactic of the coyote smugglers was to cell phone Hispanic youngsters in nearby Sierra Vista, and have them pick up large orders of fast food. They would then put it in large plastic trash bags and drop it on the roadside, to feed the illegals. A common feature of abandoned illegal "nests" was piles of McDonalds or Pizza Hut garbage (along with tampons, water jugs, etc.). Though we weren't supposed to cross the road, if we witnessed a suspected food drop, the line supervisors said we could break SOP, "just to pick up the trash."

Advanced publicity and the work before we arrived for our one-night tour of duty had all but shut down the illegals, but we did have some action. A young Hispanic-looking couple, claiming to be from Chicago, stopped on the highway and asked us what was up, pumped us for information. We pumped back. They seemed nice enough, the guy said he used to hike these mountains when he lived here as a kid, described the smuggling techniques of lookouts, but the temporary Arizona plates on their black PT Cruiser made us wonder about their Chicago story. We made notes.

An older man in a new maroon Ford Explorer drove the

Continued on page 54



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The SU-16C is a light weight, gas operated, self-loading rifle in .223 Remington / 5.56x45 mm. Compared to our original SU-16 the "Charlie" has a shorter barrel and a true folding stock. It also has enhanced metal sights compatible with M-16 posts.

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Technical specifications	
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Magazine	10 or M-16 (optional)

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SOLDIER OF FORTUNE

NRA RESOLUTION

By Lt. Col. Robert K. Brown, USAR (Ret.)

Houston, Texas (15 April 2005) — *Soldier of Fortune* attended the 134th Annual NRA Meetings and Exhibits in Houston, Texas 15-17 April. As usual, it was gratifying to mingle shoulder-to-shoulder with the pro-Second Amendment crowd and look and fondle five acres of guns and goodies in the exhibit hall after, during the past year, having to put up with all the “grass feeders” of Boulder, Colorado, also known, not so fondly as “The Peoples Republic of Boulder.” But I digress.

To be brutally candid, however, the highlight of the NRA convention for SOF was the Saturday morning Annual Meeting of Members that is open to all NRA members, and which was attended by roughly 3,000 of the faithful who heard reports from NRA officers. Then it was “Resolution Time!”

Vietnam veteran and Silver Star recipient Steve Schreiner, who is also President of the Firearms Coalition of Colorado (FCC), took the floor and introduced a resolution

recognizing and commending *Soldier of Fortune Magazine*. The resolution was read and a vote called for. “Not one person rose to speak against the Resolution at the microphones; no one raised a hand against it,” noted a very pleased Schreiner, who has worked closely with SOF on the gun issue over the years. The FCC, incidentally, won the NRA-ILA Volunteer Organization of Year Award in 2003 for its effectiveness in getting Concealed Carry legislation passed in Colorado.

Special thanks go to NRA Board Members Wayne Anthony Ross, Jim Porter, Bill Dailey and NRA President Kayne Robinson as well as NRA outside counsel Steve Schulman for tweaking and smoothing out the wording of the Resolution, and a special thanks to Major Jim Land, USMC (Ret.), who is also the NRA secretary, for his guidance in how to ramrod the resolution through the minefields of the bureaucracy. Below is the Resolution as passed at the Annual Meeting of Members:



MOVED, the adoption of the following Resolution:

WHEREAS, *Soldier of Fortune Magazine* is celebrating its 30th Anniversary, and
WHEREAS, from its inception, *Soldier of Fortune Magazine* has been uncompromising in its support of those who have fought against terror around the world; and

WHEREAS, *Soldier of Fortune Magazine* has been a champion of the men and women of the Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS, from its inception, *Soldier of Fortune Magazine* has been uncompromising in supporting freedom and the Second Amendment through its right-to-keep-and-bear-arms editorial policy and public appearances; and

WHEREAS, *Soldier of Fortune Magazine* has played a prominent role in electing pro-gun political leaders and defeating anti-gun politicians as candidates for various State Legislatures, the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate; and

WHEREAS, *Soldier of Fortune Magazine* originated in 1980 the concept of a three-gun match, which in the course of 21 years hosted a total of more than [5,000] individual competitors; and

WHEREAS, *Soldier of Fortune Magazine*, since its inception in 1975, has consistently offered Vietnam Veterans recognition and support they so richly deserved; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the National Rifle Association recognizes and commends *Soldier Of Fortune Magazine* for its 30th Anniversary and for support for the National Rifle Association, the Second Amendment and the fight for freedom.

Steve Schreiner
President, Firearms Coalition of Colorado
16 April 2005

Bye-the-bye, I am soliciting SOF supporters to circulate petitions on my behalf to get on the NRA Board of Directors ballot again this year. I've stepped on a number of toes over the past few years and would not be surprised if I were not re-nominated by the nominating committee. We will provide you with petition forms you can circulate and then return to SOF. If you so desire, we will recognize your efforts in SOF. ✕

Thanks for your support, Lt. Col. Robert K. Brown, USAR (Ret.)

For a copy of a nominating petition, send your name/address to:

Nominating Petition – SOF
5735 E. Arapahoe, Unit 5A
Boulder, CO 80303

or go online to: www.sofmag.com
for a petition form.



(opposite page) Vietnam Vet Steve Schreiner introduces the resolution recognizing and commending SOF for 30 years of service. Schreiner, President of the Firearms Coalition of Colorado, played a major role in getting Concealed Carry legislation passed in Colorado. (above) From left to right: U.S. Senator Larry Craig, (R-Idaho), RKB and former U.S. Congressman Bob Barr tell lies of varying magnitude at the 134th NRA Convention in Houston, Texas in April.

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THE MOST DEADLY WEAPON

Give These Guys the Tools and They Will Do the Job — In Spades

By Dr. Martin Brass

Photos courtesy of AmericanSnipers.org

“The most deadly weapon on any battlefield is the single well-aimed shot,” said Major Jim Land, USMC (Ret.), Carlos Hathcock’s Commanding Officer, Sniper School Instructor, 1st MAR DIV Vietnam, and friend of Robert Brown, *SOF* publisher.

That’s true, provided the sniper has the right equipment.

No one knows that better than Detective Brian Sain, — “the Godfather” or “Sniper Santa,” as his “brotherhood” calls him. Sain, career police officer and countersniper in Texas, knows well how inconvenient, and often dangerous a shortage of the proper equipment is.

“I have been a SWAT sniper for 16 years operating under the same conditions as the military guys,” Sain told *SOF*. “We also needed to get some of our own gear, so I figured the snipers deployed internationally were in the same boat. I’m used to obtaining equipment for my teams,” he said, “so I decided to set up operations to provide equipment for our brothers overseas.”

“They are using snipers in numbers we have never seen in history, all over the globe,” he said. “The military has highly trained marksmen, some who have been to 12 sniper schools and ‘designated marksmen’ who have no sniper training. ‘We need someone who knows how to shoot, even though they don’t have sniper training,’ a commander might say.

“They give the trooper a gun and designate him as a marksman. The designated marksmen are ‘doing awesome,’” Sain said.

Sain’s organization, American Snipers, supports U.S. military personnel and coalition forces exclusively. Independent Contractors are on their own. “We have had no requests from coalition forces, whether Brits or Dutch or any others. The Americans are keeping



us hopping.”

A Sense of Duty

Even after a year and a half working “countless hours” around the clock, Sain has not lost any of his enthusiasm. He has a mission that is expanding daily, and he and his 10 team members are driven, considering their project a duty.

“We have everything from gear proper to care packages, from baby wipes to body armor, tactical products such as holsters, high-speed rucksacks, new optics, rifle accessories, mini-binoculars and batteries. And everything in between,” he added.

“When we started, I called senior



snipers and NCOs in charge of sniper schools throughout the country. They contacted SWAT snipers and told them if they needed a hand, to contact us. The word spread like wildfire. We’ve taken care of snipers and ‘designated marksmen’ in 151 different platoons: 46 of those platoons have come home. We started out with two or three, so I could handle it alone for the first six months, but as equipment and requests piled in, I was overwhelmed and started recruiting others. Integrity is the requirement that determines whether or not a volunteer gets on board with us.

“The members are active duty detective and SWAT snipers who, as soon as they get off work, start answering emails or packing boxes. We ship the equipment as we get it. We don’t let it sit around and if we have cash we go out and spend it, because if it sits there, someone is doing without.

Go Granny!

“So many people are helping us. Four or five different Boy Scout troops are collecting for the soldiers for their Eagle Scout project. How American can you get? It doesn’t get more red white and blue than that.”

“A handicapped lady in town crochets two-inch crosses and we put one of those in each box. A group of old ladies’ knitting club knits sand or O.D. colored scarves. They crochet into the yarn, ‘One shot, one kill.’

“For operational security, we do not give out snipers names or address for any reason, unless someone is known to us personally. We have a secure database with all information treated as classified.

“Only a couple of us have access to that database—the guys doing the shipping and myself. We are a 501 (C)3 non-profit organization with no administrative costs. Every single dime goes to



products, gear, shipping or fundraisers such as the Shooting Hunting Outdoors Tradeshow. But there we made way more than we spent. At fundraisers, we always make six times what it cost us; no one is making money on this thing."

"What impact do you think you're having?"

"Huge! Huge! We're getting the snipers gear they can't get from their own people."

"Do you think that those with police or SWAT experience have an advantage if they are deployed to Iraq? It appears that the fighting is street battles and gang wars?" SOF asked.

"The fighting over there is open fighting, which is what a SWAT cop does here. There, they use the same operational tactics that the guys have to use here. We have SpecOps people training regular soldiers in SWAT tactics. Some of these guys are in the Reserves and Guard. It's come full circle. What SpecOps teaches us, we are teaching. These training centers are all over the United States.

"We've lost three or four of the guys—three army snipers that we knew through the program we lost within two weeks. That hit hard." ❌

Dr. Martin Brass is an international lawyer and longtime SOF contributor.



First I would like to personally tell you thank you for everything you and your organization is doing. It is true, that most of the USMC Scout Sniper teams are continually purchasing their own equipment that doesn't exist in the military supply systems, and any help that's available is greatly appreciated. We have all of the basics currently, but a few items could definitely help us take it to the next level.

We currently need a Kestrel weather meter that reads wind speed, temperature, and humidity. Most of us have pocket-sized thermometers, but not something that gives us constant humidity data. Also we need four Blackhawk 3-day assault packs (tan). The current assault-sized pack we have does not provide enough space in order to fit all of our individual operational equipment, so we've got things strapped to the outside like a bunch of gypsies.

We could use a suppressor too, for the 5.56mm M16A4 secondary rifle we're using. I'm sure that's pushing it a bit far though! Ha!

Your package arrived at Forward Operating Base xxxxx today and was met with great fan fair by my Marines. We are tremendously grateful for the equipment that you sent us. It is wonderful to see the support that the community enjoys from our fellow snipers. The cleaning gear came in quite handy after our 25 straight days field operation. The mini bins will help lighten our load as we continue to spend most of our time chasing the Taliban between 7,000 - 10,000 feet. We head back out on our next field operation tomorrow after 4 days of rearming and resitting here at the FOB. The arrival of your gifts was perfectly timed.

More letters on page 44



Here is a list of items our platoon would like if possible; I've tried to put them in order of priority, but as I have not yet been there, it is hard to determine what we'll need the most.

- spotting scopes—any brand is better than what we currently use (8)
- command recon chest harnesses (16)
- back plate carriers (16)
- Otis cleaning kit .308 cal (4)
- graphite lubricant
- Wiley sg-1 combat goggles
- 3 or 1 point tactical slings for m-16 (12)
- Aimpoint or EOTech holographic sights NV capable (AA)
- batt's w/mounts for weaver rails
- Kestrel 4000 weather meter
- handgun lanyards (14)
- drop holster or drop leg platform for berretta 9mm (16)
- 3 day assault packs
- 3 point chinstraps (16)
- mil dot master
- elbow and knee pads
- any molle pouches (I.e. m-16/ 9mm mags, utility, grenade, m-203)
- garmin GPS (4)
- rappel/fast rope gloves (16 pr)
- Lieca 1200 range finder (not a priority as of now because I think we have the battalion commander talked into purchasing them)

I know the list is long but I figured better to have tried and failed than not to have tried at all. I only put the quantities in parenthesis to give you an idea of how many guys in the platoon need that item; any number of the above items would be a great help.



If you could help me with a few items, that would be greatly appreciated. I need a chest rig that is molle compatible and can hold the sappy (bullet-proof plates) plates. The slack jacket I have does not fit well and they don't have any more in supply right now.

Unfortunately they are requiring that we wear them right now (orders from division). I also need a surefire flashlight. Any underarmor heat gear (either for the cold that is coming or for the heat that is hear now) you could get would be extremely useful. The last thing is called a drop pouch. I believe that all these items can be found in a blackhawk magazine. I really need these items. My buddy tells me that you are a sniper also, so you will know the importance of staying as cool as possible in a desert environment while carrying extremely heavy combat loads while staying out for a few days. I appreciate all that you are doing to support our kind here.

...Some of us were fortunate to have been issued scopes. Most of us made do with what we bought, begged, borrowed or temporarily tactically acquisitioned. I managed to procure a scope from the fine and generous folks from Shepherd Scopes.

I let the boys know about us possibly getting 12 plate carriers and you could see their eyes light up with disbelief. If you only knew how many times these Marines have been screwed over...it is things like what you are doing that dramatically increase moral and make coming to work day in and day out worth while. Once again, thank you for all your support.

I have just located your website. Unbelievable, I had no idea that in this day and age, we had so much support from the local populous. I am working as a Platoon sergeant for xxxxxxxxxxxxxx and am interested in being supported/assisted as part of the Adopt A Sniper program you have in place. I have a sniper for each of my teams and will be xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx. Please contact me with information regarding membership.

Contact info: www.AmericanSnipers.org



(Left to right) Brian K. Sain, Sonny Hathcock, Lt. Keith Deney stand in front of their booth at SHOT show '05

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Only Hits Kill Part One



SOF Examines What's New with Marksmanship in the U.S. Army

Text and Photos by John Higgs

France, 1918: A German officer crouches below the parapet of a trench to avoid being shot by American soldiers 400 yards away across No Mans Land. Bent double, shoulders hunched to stay beneath the parapet, the officer wends his way carefully to the rear. After 200 yards, he stands up straight, confident that he is out of range, but 600 yards behind him, a young private in a U.S. Army infantry company sees the officer stand up. The private chambers a round in his M1903 Springfield, carefully aligns his sights and presses the trigger, felling the German officer with one shot.

Iraq, 2005: Fresh from infiltrating the Syrian border, an insurgent raises his head from behind a low wall and scans the city street. Spotting a U.S. Army patrol several blocks away, he rests the bipod of his RPD machine gun on top of the wall and fires a long burst at the patrol. The GIs take cover and return fire. One soldier settles into a kneeling position from the cover of a shop doorway. He brings his M16A4 rifle up to his shoulder and finds the gunman in his optical sight. Holding over for distance, he places the illuminated reticle squarely on the man's upper chest. He takes a short breath and begins his trigger-squeeze. His rifle barks once. He re-acquires the gunman through his optical sight and is rewarded with the image of a dead terrorist slumped over his now-silent machine gun.

Today, even with the technological advances in rifles, ammunition, and sighting systems, a soldier who can equal the performance of his great-great-grandfather is considered to be exceptional. What has happened in the last 90 years to cause such a decline in standards of marksmanship in the Army? And is it even relevant to the modern battle-

field? I visited the United States Army Marksmanship Unit (USAMU) at Ft. Benning (Home of the Infantry), Georgia, to find out.

In the 1940s, studies showed that in order to win on the battlefield, the Army needed to train its soldiers to deliver a heavy volume of accurate small arms fire. In the Cold War era, these and other conclusions prompted the Infantry School at Ft. Benning to discard the old Known Distance (KD) marksmanship training on bullseye targets in favor of the new Trainfire program that trained soldiers on reactive humanoid silhouette targets out to 300 meters. It is important to note that unlike bullseye targets, reactive targets only indicate a hit or a miss, not the accuracy of individual bullet placement. KD trained some shooters to be highly accurate marksmen, whereas Trainfire produced large numbers of fairly effective combat shooters more quickly. Trainfire was a defensive training program appropriate at a time when Cold War military tacticians anticipated fighting a rearguard action on the plains of Europe against wave upon wave of Soviet infantry and armor divisions charging westward through the Fulda Gap.

Instead, in the 1960s, war in the jungles of SE Asia was characterized by intense, short range firefights conducted with full-auto M16 (and AK47) assault rifles that could lay down a heavy volume of fire. It has been said that armies train for the last war. The lessons learned in Vietnam influenced firearms training well into the 1990s, despite the insight of such officers as Army Vice Chief of Staff General John Vessey, who wrote in 1980: "Many current Army regulations and policies place insufficient emphasis on individual, crew, and unit marksmanship. If the Army does nothing else, we must be able to hit our targets. Conversely, if we do all other things right, but fail to hit and kill targets, we shall lose."

(above) AMU competitor fires M16 with rail system and detachable carry handle that allows for an optical sight such as ACOG or Eotech – or other sights as needed – to be mounted. Current training puts emphasis on marksmanship, and provides the tools for the job.

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During the first Gulf War in 1991, the general perception among the media and the Pentagon seemed to be that modern wars could be won with technology: laser-guided "smart" bombs, Apache helicopters with infrared aiming systems, and Tomahawk cruise missiles. The 5,000-year-old concept of using soldiers to take and hold ground was regarded by some armchair experts as outdated. During the Clinton Administration, marksmanship continued its steady decline throughout the U.S. Army, aided by a congressional mandate in 1996 to transform the Army's Director of Competition Marksmanship (DCM) into the Director of Civilian Marksmanship. By that time, formal active marksmanship in the U.S. Army had been dead for two years, and the deactivation of the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit at Ft. Benning was scheduled for 1998. Fortunately, the USAMU survived, but even there, the emphasis was put on the first part of the USAMU's mission statement: To field teams to win interservice and civilian matches. It wasn't until quite recently that the second part of the unit's mission statement, to improve marksmanship throughout the Army, has been actively promoted.

Events spanning the decade from Mogadishu to Tora Bora to Baghdad dictated resurgence in the teaching of the fundamentals of marksmanship, in order for soldiers to engage individual foes and defeat them with one or more accurately

placed shots from a service rifle or pistol. Ultimately, the last hundred yards of any battle is won and lost by the quality of the soldiers on the ground, their weapons, and the quality of their training. The USAMU recognizes this and is now taking individual marksmanship skills to a level not seen in several decades.

I asked the current Commander of the USAMU, Lt. Col. David Liwanag why there has been a change in the importance the Army attaches to individual marksmanship prowess: "By Army doctrine, we fight from muzzle to 300 yards, but we teach every soldier that the maximum effective range of his M16 rifle is 550 meters, and for the M4 carbine 500 meters.



Carbine version of SDM rifle has similar features, but has 18-inch barrel and weighs a pound less – handy for troops in vehicles or helicopters.

There is a gap where nobody, with the exception of our snipers, is trained to hit rifle targets from 300 to six 600 yards, and we don't have enough snipers to cover all the opportunities at those distances. In the open areas of Afghanistan or Iraq

where a soldier can see a target in excess of 300 yards, we cannot say with certainty that an individual soldier currently has the training and ability to hit that target."

The USAMU is now putting much more emphasis on teaching marksmanship to all Soldiers, regardless of their military specialty. At the 2003 Association of the United States Army Convention in Washington, D.C., Chief of Staff of the Army General Peter J. Schoomaker proclaimed that, "every soldier

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is a rifleman and must be able to defend himself." General Kevin Byrnes, CG of the Army's Training and Doctrine Command has directed what Army Basic Combat Training and Advanced Individual Training schools are calling, "Thirty Nine and Nine" – 39 individual warrior tasks and nine collective group battle drills to improve soldier proficiency before he reports to his unit, and subsequently ships out to Iraq or Afghanistan.

In Iraq and Afghanistan there are no designated battle lines nor safe rear areas, so every soldier must be trained in combat techniques. Tasks include learning how to shoot automatic weapons, from a vehicle, dismounting and maneuvering with full battle gear, and engaging a target in the dark with a night vision device and laser illuminator. Cooks, clerks, drivers, and every other soldier are receiving the same training as Infantry and other combat branches. A quarter of a century ago, Infantry Advanced Rifle Marksmanship (ARM) training taught automatic rifle fire, zeroing, field fire and practice, practice qualification, and qualification. Today, the

advanced rifle phase for infantrymen teaches an introduction to red dot optical sights, some Known-Distance (KD) training to determine zeros and overcome the effects of wind and distance, and night vision goggle/laser pointer-illuminator familiarization, and a reflexive fire table.

These lessons will enable soldiers armed with a standard M16A4 rifle fitted with optics or iron sights to kill the enemy at greater distances than the enemy can hit them. The methodology at the AMU is to "train the trainer" and specifically teaches NCOs to take what they have learned back to their own units and pass that information on through practical application and formal training sessions. Close Combat or Known Distance classes for soldiers totally immerse the student in

live fire exercises. An average Close Combat marksmanship course, for example, runs around 800 – 2,200 rounds fired per student, depending on the length of the course. By the end of a Close Combat or KD class, a student will have his or

Continued on page 58



Representative targets show gain in accuracy potential of SDM rifle over one "off the rack" – a significant improvement.

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Recently the Chief of Staff of the US Army published the "Top Ten Inventions" of 2004. The M107 was selected as one of these inventions and is the only small arm ever to make this prestigious list.

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The Truth and Lies About Human Growth Hormone... What every Fighter Needs to Know!

The Uncensored Truth about HGH Supplements and Why Most Do Less to Raise Hormone Levels Than a Glass of Good Water

Lets face it. **HGH (Human Growth Hormone)** is a hot, hot topic these days. It's all over the news; it's in books, magazine articles and even in the movies. Yes, that's right; plastic surgery is not the only thing movie stars use to stay young, sexy, and virile.

And what about Body Builders? Every one knows that **HGH** is an essential part of their success.

Then there are the combat athletes that so many of us idolize you know, the ones who seem to get better and better as they get older, beating guys half their age. I'd venture there's quite a few champions using **Human Growth Hormone** every day to keep their performance above and beyond the rest of us.

But, forget about all that for now because I am going to show you and teach you what the average guy who wants to exceed his previous best needs to know about **HGH**.

My name is Dr Dave Woynarowski. I am an anti-aging, longevity and life enhancement specialist. I have seen some absolute miracles with **HGH**. And I've also seen some complete nightmares that I've had to fix when people who didn't have this info tried to use **HGH**.

Why is this information so vital to you the grappler? Well, if you've ever wondered why some of the people you see every day, maybe at your martial arts school are such studs, you may very well be dealing with someone who is using **Human Growth Hormone**.

That's right my friends, there is an underground explosion taking place in our society and it's rippling just beneath the surface.

Some people call it "Hyper-Health" meaning that you are actually exceeding your normal capacity for well being and human performance. **HGH** is one of the cornerstones of this new approach. It is also one of the cornerstones in Anti-Aging Medicine that is becoming very popular these days.

Your chances of running into or even grappling with someone on HGH are higher than you think.

This is only going to become more common when HGH goes generic which may happen this very year, so you better be prepared. It will soon become an absolute certainty. **And it is likely that there will not be any reliable way of detecting the use of HGH either, a fact not lost on your competitors.**

Dr. Dave's Rule of the Decades

Simply put, my estimation is that for every 10 years you age you gain a 10% chance of having a total or relative deficiency in Growth Hormone. So if you are in your 20's you have about a 20% chance, in your 30's a 30% chance, in your 40's a 40% chance and so on.

But here's the kicker. I do not sell **HGH** or any bogus supplement supposedly designed to stimulate it. That's right! Until there is a viable alternative I can only continue to recommend the real thing, and to educate you about it.

Now if you want you can come to my office and be rested, and if **HGH** is right for you I will begin therapy. But, for most of you this is simply not practical.

What I really want is to cut through the absolute mountain of **BULL** that surrounds **HGH** like the lard on the belly of an aging athlete.

I am so sick and tired of reading complete lies and misinformation about HGH that are out there, propagated by people who are trying to sell you supplements that do less to raise your HGH levels than a good glass of water!

One of my current objectives as a medical doctor is to give people honest, down-to-earth information about the true benefits and potential hazards of **HGH** supplementation. That way you can make an informed and intelligent decision about this amazing hormone that your competitors may be using - and most certainly **WILL** be using if they aren't already.

In my 2-volume audio CD program entitled, *The Absolute Unadulterated Secrets of Growth Hormone Revealed!* I guarantee that I **WILL** make you smarter about the subject of **HGH** than almost any doctor you meet.

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8. How **HGH** leads to dramatic improvements in mood
9. Why **HGH** leads to improvements in organ system strength - including your heart, lungs and kidneys
10. What is it about **HGH** that leads to super fast recovery even if you overdo your workouts?
11. How **HGH** helps with injury resistance and recovery
12. Why people on **HGH** often have a Monster Sex drive
13. How **HGH** can lead to a reversal of every major measurable marker of aging including tissue strength, elasticity, metabolic rate, muscle strength, body fat and skin tone
14. What are the drawbacks and side effects of **HGH** and how do you avoid them?



Dave Woynarowski, M.D., "Dr. Dave"

In *The Absolute Unadulterated Secrets of Growth Hormone Revealed!* you are going to learn the real truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth about **HGH**; information which you cannot get anywhere else. As a nationally renowned expert I am sharing these secrets with you so you can deal with this issue safely and sanely.

The Absolute Unadulterated Secrets of Growth Hormone Revealed! is exactly what most people who sell **HGH** or supplements that supposedly boost it, do not want you to know.

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Surviving A Terrorist Shooting

Practical Tips from Jerusalem's Mean Streets

By Howard B. Linett, Esq.

The following is excerpted from *Living With Terrorism: Survival Lessons from the Streets of Jerusalem*, published by Paladin Press, Dept. SOE, Gunbarrel Tech Center, 7077 Winchester Circle, Boulder, CO 80301 (www.paladin-press.com).

Last month we described how terrorists employ road-blocks to ambush hapless innocents, a tactic unfamiliar in the American Homeland. Also less common in America are political terrorists carrying out attacks with firearms, targeting large gatherings of innocents and massacring dozens in a hail of bullets. To maximize the chances of surviving such an attack we present some techniques that have worked in Israel.

If anything involving terrorist shootings is certain, it is that these attacks are most often unpredictable, happening when and where they are least expected. Every attack is unique.

Potential scenarios are infinite. Whether you are walking your dog, driving home from work, sitting in church or your living room, the following are some general guidelines that can help you survive. The sound of gunfire is likely to be the way you are alerted to an attack by terrorists using firearms: the louder the sound, the closer the shooters. Sounds are magnified at night. The more rapid the rate of fire, the more likely the shooters are using automatic weapons. If you do not know what real gunfire sounds like, go learn. Locate and visit an outdoor rifle/pistol range.

Avoid the Shooters

To avoid the terrorists you need to determine where they are. Try to stay calm and avoid panic. Until you have a reasonable idea of where the shooting originates, stay where you are. If you run, you are as likely to run into, as you are away from, the danger. Even if others are running, think before you join them. You do not want to be "driven like cattle" into the field of fire that another terrorist is waiting to pour into the panicked, fleeing masses.

Consider Hiding

Hiding may be a better option than running, if running will expose, or potentially expose, you to the shooting. If the terrorists do not know you are "there," they will not bother with you. Is there some place or object that will conceal you? Somewhere you expect that the terrorists may pass-by without inspecting? Somewhere you can remain both out of sight and also deadly still and quiet? Neither infants nor young children can be expected to remain still and quiet. If you have young offspring with you or others do, hiding may not be the

wisest course of action.

Put Cover Between You and the Shooters

Sometimes terrorists may simply shoot up their surroundings, hoping to hit hiding innocents. In military jargon this tactic is called "reconnaissance by fire." Also consider that when the anti-terrorist forces arrive there is likely to be a good deal more shooting. If you are in the vicinity, you do not want to be exposed to anyone's gunfire. The best of all worlds is concealment that is bulletproof: cover. Something big, made of really heavy, really thick steel would be good. Consider this unscientific split-second crisis yardstick: If it is not bolted-down and you can budge it by yourself, even if it is constructed of metal, it is unlikely that the object will stop rifle bullets.

Caught in the Open

If there is nowhere to run nor hide when shooting erupts, "hit the dirt!" Make yourself as small a target as possible. Try to use anything that will provide a measure of concealment or cover, even if it is partial and inadequate. Street cops are taught that if nothing better is available, to lie down in the street and use the curb for as much protection

as it can provide. As a last resort, consider playing dead.

Hollywood's Misconceptions Will Kill You

My wife will affirm how I rail, almost without exception, every time I watch an "action" movie or TV show. The informal list I have mentally compiled of objects that stop bullets on film but not in real life, is too long. Wallboard will not stop bullets. Similarly penetratable are wooden doors, furniture, the bar in a salon, an up-turned poker table, the door, windows and body of a car, packing crates and cardboard boxes (unless filled with earth or sand), kitchen appliances, newspaper vending machines and street vendors' pushcarts.

There is a specific point to my taking to task those who fill your heads with fantasy and foolishness: We are discussing your making life-and-death decisions. I have said consider hiding. I have also said hiding behind bulletproof concealment is preferred to hiding behind something that will not stop bullets. You should not "go for cover" thinking some object will stop bullets, which will not stop bullets. Do not be misled into thinking something is protecting you, but instead only provides you with a false sense of security while in reality it is turning you into a stationary, thus infinitely easier to hit, target. In an attack where the shooting is real, do not do



One picture is worth a thousand words. Do not look out the window at the sound of gunfire. If you do, you risk becoming the terrorist's target, as did this elderly Neve Ya'akov resident.

as Hollywood does. You may have no better alternative than to hide behind the living room couch and as far as concealing you the couch does the job. If you decide to rely on the back of the sofa to stop flying bullets, you are dead.

Miscellaneous Advice

Out in the open, it is groups of people, not single individuals, who are most often the target of terrorists using firearms. (A targeted sniper attack is the exception.) If you can manage to avoid being part of the bigger crowd, you might just avoid the initial bursts of automatic rifle fire.

Inside restaurants, coffee shops and other establishments with large windows looking out to the street, sit in the back. Terrorists will shoot through the windows. Not only is there mortal danger from bullets, but also from the deadly speeding shards of glass the bullets propel along with them. The further you are sitting towards the back of the establishment, the greater the likelihood is that you will be a less immediate and accessible target. The same grisly logic holds if the terrorists enter the establishment and shoot it up from inside the entrance.

Whether at home, visiting friends, at work, out shopping or anywhere else you find yourself when you hear gunfire, never go look out the window to see what is going on. Your head will instantly draw the attention and fire of the shooter. A window frames your countenance as if you are a picture. It is even worse if the backlighting silhouettes your head. Do you need convincing? Take a long, hard look at the photograph from the Neveh Ya'akov attack. As the saying goes, a picture is worth a thousand words.

Our Family's Standing Instructions When There Is Shooting

Stop and Drop. Lay flat on the ground. Determine if there are bullets flying. If there are, figure out where the shooters are. Stay low. Crawl to a better-protected place, if you can do so without exposing yourself to the shooters and drawing their fire. If you are caught, exposed in the open where moving will draw the terrorists' fire, lay still and play dead. Terrorists do not generally waste ammunition shooting the "dead." The terrorists are too busy searching for and firing at live victims.

Remember that terrorists often work in pairs, sometimes trios. Just because "the" terrorist is killed, does not mean it is all clear. Do not move until told to do so by security personnel whom you are sure are authentic police — not terrorists in disguise — then move away quickly in the direction the police instruct you. Grave danger remains. Call home or your base ASAP. If the cellular phone network is down try to get someone to let you use a landline. Be brief: Do not tie up the comms net.

Caution: If you are armed, you must understand that you pose a crucial dilemma for law enforcement, if you are in, or near a terrorist attack. "GUN" will be the instant response yelled by the first police officer that realizes that you are armed, as he draws a bead on you. Terrorists dress to blend in: Law enforcement and security personnel are trained to know this. Adrenalin is flowing at the scene of a terrorist attack — and there you are with a weapon. The only conceivably worse situation is the one where you have your drawn gun in your hand or you are firing it.

Never get in or out of a vehicle with a gun in your hand. Always try to get away from attackers whether you are driving or sitting outside a Sbarro sipping soda. If on foot, go for cover and stay there until police give the all clear. Leave your gun in its holster. If you draw your gun you risk being shot as a terrorist. If you fire, you risk hitting innocents by your inaccurate shooting. Only consider drawing your gun if your death or the death of another innocent is imminent and certain, unless you personally shoot the terrorist...and the only alternative to your shooting is your death.

Here is a glimpse inside the mind of the person who is looking at you through cross-hairs and deciding if that breath you are taking is going to be your last. As a police "dedicated marksman" I never go on duty without a detailed, explicit briefing that must include the specifics of any of "our side" who are in the area

and out of uniform. If there are undercover officers about, I confirm how I am to distinguish them from the bad guys: We have a method, because if a fracas or firefight breaks out, identification is a matter of life and death. I also have standing orders in the event of a terror attack. In such a situation the greatest difficulty I face is deciding whether the "shooter" is a citizen exercising his right to self-defense, a genuine soldier, police or border police officer (terrorists often dress as police or first responders) — or a terrorist. How am I supposed to figure out which you are? That goes double in the United States, where in many metropolitan areas no one expects an armed citizen to react.

If police responding mistake you for a terrorist, you're dead. Most are mature individuals who exercise due restraint — but I have been deployed with orders stating, "there should be no one with a rifle anywhere around. If you see one, take no chances."

Your first task in surviving a terrorist attack, is to survive.

✕

Howard B. Linett, Esq. has lived in Jerusalem, Israel half his adult life. He is veteran of the IDF Combat Engineers and has been a member of the Israeli Police Civil Guard, Jerusalem Sniper Unit since 1995. He is an SOF contributor and a sometime columnist writing under the name of David Stone.



A common sight in Israel, soldiers and police on patrol carrying Glock 19s with Fobus shoulder stocks.

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dirt access road adjacent to the highway, acted clandestine, implied he knew what was REALLY going on, asked if we also knew, said he lied about what his name was, asked if we knew who was in charge, contradicted himself a half-dozen times. He worried me. I wondered how fast I could draw if he suddenly produced a gun. Brad recognized the weirdness too, and took a defensive position, hand on his pistol, behind the man's vehicle. We made notes.

An Hispanic-looking male in his early twenties came blazing down the access road on a dirt bike, with a woman riding back up. We got advance word of him on the walkie talkies, from positions down the line. He cruised the whole line ("this is position ten, he just came thru"), then he turned around and came back again. He had no license plates. We took pictures. We made notes.

The evidence I wanted to see for myself was at the Naco line. Naco is a tiny disheveled town split by the border, with a 12-foot-high metal fence thru the center of it, which forces the illegals into surrounding desert. Out there, in sprawling open terrain, we clearly saw foot trails heading for miles from

Mexico toward the U.S. These ended at openings cut in the rusted out barbed-wire fence separating the two nations. You could eyeball the graded edges of the dirt road as you drove, and easily spot the pounded down areas where a fence hole had been cut or twisted and a dirt trail ended. Blue flags waved at water stations deep on the Mexican side, placed there by the Mexicans, helping to guide the illegals. These were the well-worn thoroughfares through the desert I had heard about and wanted to see with my own eyes. I wanted to step through the fence, but followed the SOP and didn't. I wonder if it was legal for me to pee from the U.S. side through the fence onto Mexico, and photograph the wet spot...

We saw the "Hannity Hole," where talk show host Sean Hannity had stepped through, creating a huge ruckus over a non-problem. Why don't those complainers create an equal fuss over the thousands of illegals who routinely pour through these holes? I know, I know, you have answers for that one. ✕

Alan Korwin, of **GunLaws.com**, is author of Gun Laws of America

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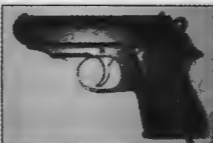
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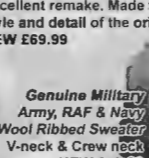


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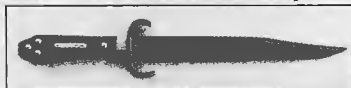
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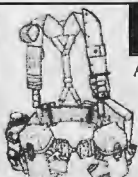
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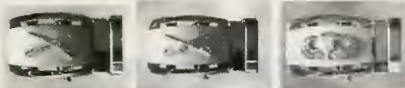
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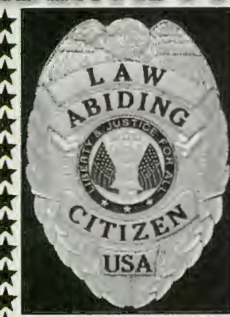
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her rifle zeroed, be able to hold-over or adjust sights for wind and distance, have experience in rapid and sustained fire, and will have practiced magazine changes.

The concept of providing an above-average shooter in each army squad with a more accurate rifle dates back at least as far as WWII when U.S. Army squads each had a soldier armed with a 1903 Springfield bolt-action rifle and telescopic sight. The Designated Marksman was not part of squads during Korea and Vietnam, although by the late '80s the concept was once again receiving some attention from Army planners. Around 1993-94, the United States Special Operations Command (USSOCOM) began to issue the Special Operations Peculiar Modification (SOPMOD) Kit, a long-range optic for the standard M16 rifle or M4 carbine.

Today, the newly introduced Designated Marksman Program will provide additional training for selected soldiers on how to shoot an accurised M16 rifle or M4 carbine to the full effective range of the weapon and ammunition. Actual trigger time during the classes averages 100 rounds fired per day, per student.

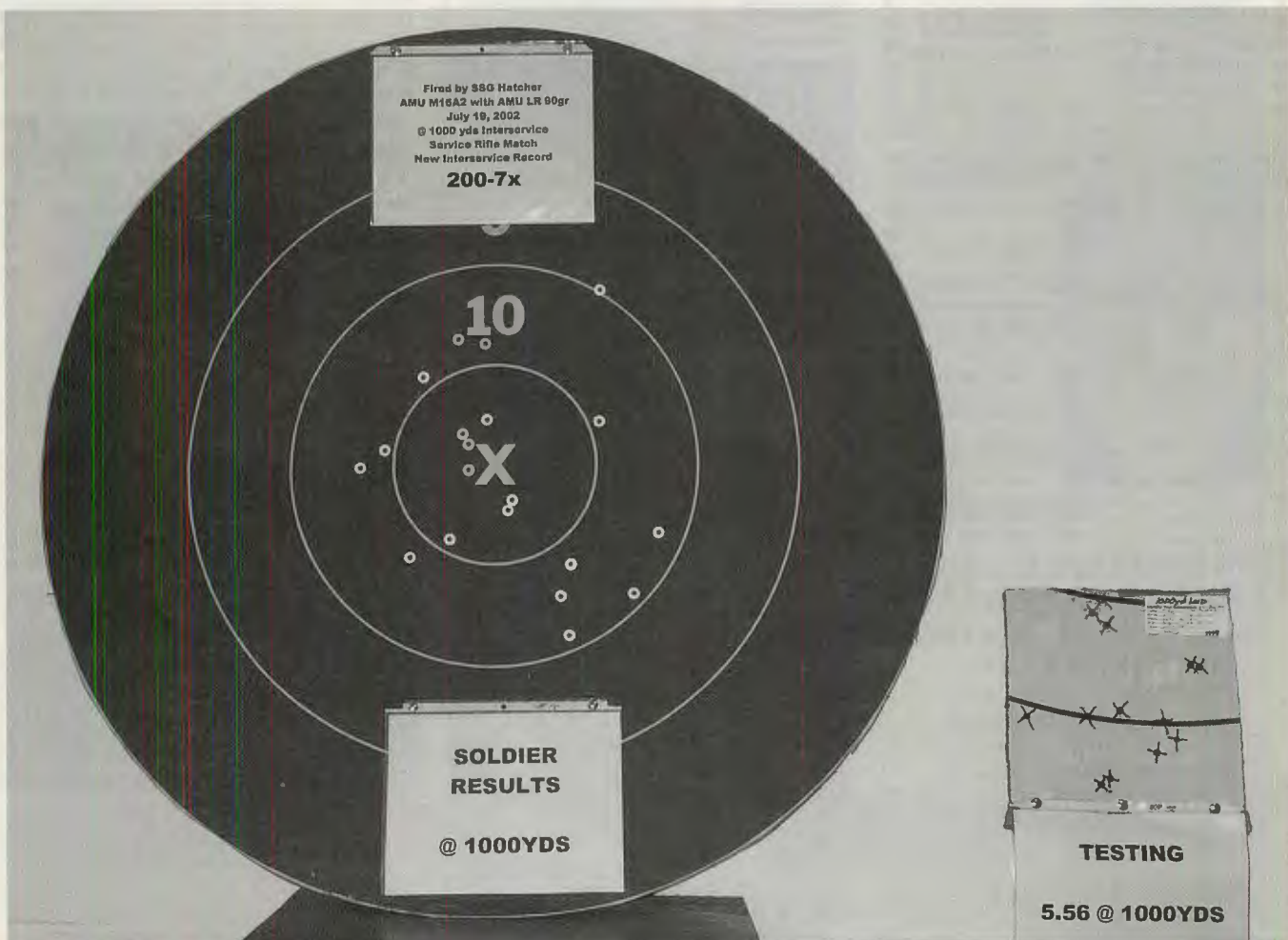
"By developing Squad Designated Marksmen (DMs), at least one soldier in a footmobile squad has the training and the weapon to engage and kill a target that his squad or team leader identifies from 300 to 600 yards. The Squad Designated Marksman is not a sniper. He is a maneuvering member of the squad and his fire team leader can give him fire com-

mands like, 'Target, four hundred yards, RPG Gunner!' and he can immediately engage," Lt. Col. Liwanag told me as we sat in his office at the USAMU's headquarters in a converted WWII hospital building at Ft. Benning.

M16 Rifle/M4 Carbine vs. M14 Rifle

While the concept of a Squad Designated Marksman capable of engaging targets to 500 meters is now part of Army marksmanship doctrine and the new Stryker concept, (SOF Sept. 2004, "Stryker Brigade Combat Teams Capable of Deploying Anywhere in the World Within 96 Hours") there are differing opinions about the rifle and ammunition that should be used. The M14 rifle, predecessor to the M16, was put forward as the choice for SDM, based upon its accuracy and the long-range killing power of its 7.62mm NATO cartridge. In 2003, one proposal was to issue M14s to Stryker Brigade Combat Teams (SBCT). An Army memo for the TRADOC Commanding General stated: "...SBCTs are requesting M14s/M21s in lieu of M4s for the SDMs...The USARPAC position is that the SDM will not carry the M16/M4, only the M14. Justification was that the SDM is required to engage targets at increased ranges and in many cases over-watch and/or suppress likely threats within an engagement area." However, the same memo went on to say that: "M14s are not logistically supported, not institutionally trained, and may be of questionable quality...Issuing M14s counters the Army's initiatives of commonality of parts, reducing maintenance,

Continued on page 62



Thousand-yard shooters take note: a highly accurate M16A2 rifle with 90-gr. 5.56mm match ammo in the hands of a real marksman – SSG Hatcher – put 'em all in the 10-ring (seven inside the X ring) with iron sights. All the old records set with the 7.62mm round have fallen to accurate 5.56mm rifle/ammo combinations.

of the utilities. The employer is not paying taxes.

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"There's a member of my sportsman club who owns a trade company. He said the day he left high school he went to work as a roofer, making more money than high school teachers. Now he owns his own company and won't pay a young man to have the same opportunity. He hires cheap labor at five dollars an hour so he can get rich. And he laughs about it.

"When I came up to the sportsman club after my trip to the border, he said, 'Don't go to the border again, I'll have to pay higher wages.'

"This time when I was at the border, things had gotten worse," Pope said.

"We've arrested about 150 in this sector in the last three hours, and last night there was a large 'drive through'. One truck crashed and a man died.

"If they drive through, don't try to stop them, they'll kill you," a Border Patrol agent told Pope. He was warned about the Mara Salvatrucha gang members, and their violence, and the druggies that carried assault rifles.

Pope spotted eight illegals, one pregnant lady. They were picked up by the Border patrol. The place where he had set up camp had seen a lot more illegal traffic since the Minutemen had set up south of Tombstone. Yuma had become the big corridor.

"By the time I left, the illegals caught the day before were making their next try.

"They get arrested day after day after day and return the next day and try again. Millions of them," Pope said.

"We need more like you," one exhausted Border Patrol agent told Pope, "send your friends."

"That's what the Minutemen are all about. I was surprised to do something. It felt good." Pope said

"This Lousy T-shirt"

The month long vigil by the Minutemen went fairly smoothly, except for one small incident on the part of one of the volunteers.

Bryan Barton detained a suspected illegal immigrant he thought was dehydrated from exposure. After giving the man cereal and milk, Barton asked him to pose for a picture with a T-shirt inscribed with, "Bryan Barton caught an illegal alien and all I got was this lousy T-shirt". He then supposedly gave the man twenty dollars before the Border Patrol arrived.

Barton was cleared of criminal charges.

But he was not off the hook with the Minutemen directors. The project had a 100% no-contact policy. Volunteers were



Lando Pope's old jeep provided the ideal fair-weather observation platform. Seen here about two miles north of the border, it is in fact within the city limits of Yuma. Although camping is technically illegal, the common-sense officer sent to check Pope out let him know it was rarely enforced-but could be.

to have no direct contact with any illegals spotted, according to Alan Korwin, of GunLaws.com, author of Gun Laws of America, who went down to the Arizona border. (See sidebar of his personal account with the Middlemen) . They were not to offer them food or water, converse with them, or even wave at them. If they approached, the volunteer was to move away. Some illegals had attempted contact, and then made claims of assault to discredit the MMP efforts. The immigrants understood that if a BP agent made

a downward waving motion, they were to sit down right there and wait to be picked up. If a volunteer did wave, the illegals might take that as a command to sit. If they sat, then they were considered as detained, with negative legal impacts on the project and participants. If an immigrant attacked or even approached, the volunteer was to get in your vehicle and leave, including leave goods behind if necessary.

"The volunteer's actions were admirable, justified and undeniably humane, but unfortunately they jeopardized our established procedures and overall purpose of passively monitoring the border," Chris Simcox, publisher of the Tombstone, Ariz., *Tumbleweed* and Minuteman Project organizer said. "It's unfortunate, but we had to dismiss him from further participation."

ACLU observers were the only ones engaged in criminal behavior during the Minutemen's vigil, according to Simcox.

The Arizona chapter of the ACLU sent observers to the border.

"We will be there to make sure they are not abusing anybody's rights," ACLU's Ray Ybarra told the *Tucson Citizen*.

A team of U.S. attorneys was waiting in the wings, ready to file civil suits against project participants if any abuses were reported, Ybarra said.

So was Mexican President Vicente Fox, according to Rep. Tom Tancredo, R-Colo.

"The president of Mexico is threatening to sue any member of the Minutemen who have contact with a Mexican national, threatening to take the U.S. into the International Court of Justice at The Hague, and is providing transportation to Mexican nationals trying to sneak into the United States. One could say he is acting in the best interest of his nation. Isn't it unfortunate we cannot say the same thing about President Bush?" Tancredo said, according to *Kallini.com*

An ACLU member, desperate to get something on the Minutemen, allegedly pushed one of the Minutemen the other night trying to get him to push back. He didn't fall for the bait. Some ACLU members "walked up and shined a spotlight right in a Minuteman's face from six inches or so away. Didn't

work that time either. We immediately report these types of contacts with them to the Sheriff to counter any claims they try to make against us," Kallini wrote.

"Both the media and ACLU 'observers' had tried to instigate trouble by dressing as illegals, emerging from the woods, and attempting to provoke hostilities. The ACLU have made fools of themselves, have been disrespectful, set fires, baited us, under the 'leadership' of a young individual named Ray Ybarra, with support from their leadership locally and nationally," Korwin confirmed reports of harassment by the ACLU members. He quoted the local border patrol:

"Reports of [Minutemen] causing 'ground sensors' to go off are exaggerated because most of those are being set off by the ACLU sneaking around trying to find the Minutemen doing something wrong." (local2544.org)

Many were expecting violence to erupt during the vigil, that members of the Minutemen would loose their cool and abuse the illegals.

Those predictions fell on their face.

Stoned "Observers"

Instead, volunteers with the Minuteman Project in Arizona reported spotting the ACLU observers smoking pot. (Free Republic.com)

"They are actively engaging in criminal activity," Grey Deacon, Minuteman spokesman told World Net Daily.

The ACLU representatives flashed lights, and sounded horns to warn illegals and "coyote" human smugglers to avoid sections patrolled by the volunteers, according to Deacon.

Deacon accused the ACLU activists of resorting to new tactics because of the success the Minuteman Project had in assisting the Border Patrol in stopping illegal aliens and in publicizing how insecure the U.S.-Mexico border is.

"The ACLU's position is that illegal aliens have a right to enter our border and stay in this country as long as they want," said Deacon. "That's what one of the leaders of the group told me personally."

"We will see battalion-sized military operations between English and Spanish speakers in the United States fighting within ten years. The level of hostility is huge," Pope said.

"Because of absolutely crushing numbers, I don't think that we can get out of this without violence. There is no way to solve this in a civil manner because we have let the problem get out of control. The constitution will have to be amended to change the rules."

More than a dozen U.S. Border Patrol agents, whose names were undisclosed for fears of retribution, said that they had been ordered not to arrest illegal aliens along the 23-mile section of the border that the Minuteman Project patrolled, according to the *Washington Times*.

"It was clear to everyone here what was being said and why. The apprehensions were not to increase after the Minuteman volunteers left," one agent said.

The Naco supervisors "were clear in their intention" to keep arrests to an "absolute minimum" to offset the effect of the Minuteman vigil by minimizing the patrols along the border. Border Patrol chief David V. Aguilar denied the accusations, according to the *Times*.

If Governor Lamm's prediction that the Minutemen movement is reminiscent of the Boston Tea Party plays out, and the Minutemen movement has become unstoppable, we are in for a wild ride. ✖

Dr. Martin Brass is an international lawyer and longtime SOF contributor.





Prototype Special Purpose Rifle (SPR) with collapsible stock and suppressor mounted on an 18-inch fluted barrel: short, accurate, lightweight.

commonality of ammunition and training. Bottom line, this will cause a logistical burden.”

Proponents of the M14 may argue that the benefits of the rifle outweigh the logistical problems, but consider that the M14 has not been supported by the Army for 30 years, and there is no official supply of parts, magazines, or trained armorers. As Lt. Col. Liwanag told me, “Combat formations should not rely on *Shotgun News*, a satellite phone, and FEDEX, DHL, or UPS to deliver a repair part. Some people are getting the M14, but there is no school here to train them.” (SOF, Oct. 2004, “Texas Rifle Club teaches Army Squad Designated Marksmen”)

The memo goes on to say that: “Equipping the SDMs with the M14 is a good idea in theory, but will not work as planned...7.62 was simply too difficult to support for logistics and training...The infantry School recognizes the need but sees the solution as being the M16A4 or the M4 with improved optics.” An additional factor in the selection of the M16 over the M14 is that soldiers are already familiar with that weapons system and do not need to be retrained.

The Squad Designated Marksman Rifle

Although it fires a 5.56mm round as opposed to the M14’s 7.62mm, the M16, when modified, has demonstrated exceptional accuracy and reliability both in competition and combat. Since 1993, all interservice and National Match records set by the M14 have been broken by the M16. The USAMU took a standard M16A1 and customized it to produce the Mark 12 SOF Precision Rifle (SPR) for the U.S. Special Operations Command. Then, the gunsmiths at the USAMU accurised M16A4 rifles with ACOG optical sights for the 3rd Infantry Division. Both rifles incorporate lessons learned by the USAMU from rifle competition that have been adapted to combat.

USAMU gunsmiths customize standard M16 service rifles by replacing

the GI barrel with a heavier stainless steel fluted barrel that is stiffer (to reduce flexing under recoil), and therefore more accurate. The flutes (shallow grooves cut along the length of the outside of the barrel) increase surface area to keep the barrel cooler, and cut weight slightly. The barrel is free-floated, that is to say the only point at which the barrel touches the rest of the rifle is where it is fixed to the flattop upper receiver. On the modified rifle the standard hand guards or SOPMOD accessory rails, and the front sling swivel are attached to the float tube so that nothing may impair accuracy by touching the barrel. This allows a soldier to loop up in a sling attached to the front swivel without applying pressure directly to the barrel (which may cause it to flex), affecting the point of impact of the bullet.

The trigger is tuned or replaced with a two-stage match-quality trigger based on triggers used in the Olympics. A set of match sights or an Advanced Combat Optic Gunsight (ACOG) completes the setup. Externally, the rifle still looks like a standard service rifle. This is an important feature because it prevents the Bad Guys from detecting a DM by his rifle and actively targeting him. The M16s are fed match-grade ammunition: 5.56mm Mark 262 Mod 0 Long Range Special Ball, DODIC AA53 with 77 grain Sierra Match King bullets. Originally developed for KD matches, this round has already proven itself in combat in the SPR and M4 carbine out to 600 yards. Increased accuracy translates to increased lethality. If this SDM rifle proves to be effective it may well become the model for other units.

Next month we see first-hand how the Army is using competition as a training tool to improve the marksman-ship skills of all soldiers. ☘

An NRA and Colorado POST certified Firearms Instructor and a graduate of Yavapai, Gunsite, and DTI firearms training schools, John Higgs is a frequent contributor to *Soldier of Fortune*.

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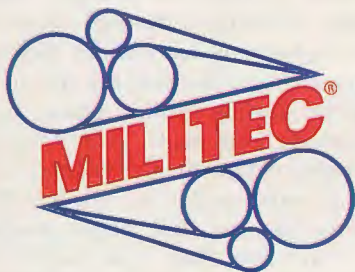
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The Shrike 5.56 – Advanced Weapons System™

A Unique New Weapon System Redefines the Light Machine Gun

By Gary Paul Johnston

Photos Courtesy Ares Defense or by Gary Paul Johnston

In the animal kingdom, although the Shrike is often mistaken for the mocking bird, it is actually a fierce predator in disguise. In the world of firearms, if you are looking at the Shrike 5.56™ and wondering whether it's an M16 rifle or a belt-fed light machine gun, you're on the right track, but the Shrike 5.56™ is actually much more than either one.

Back in 1964, in an effort to make the M16 rifle a more effective weapon, Colt engineer Rob Roy designed a belt-fed version of it. This wasn't a totally new design, but was essentially a scaled-down version of a system originally designed in 1957 for an AR10 rifle, by Armalite's Gene Stoner and John Peck. In the Stoner/Peck design, the belt-feed mechanism was mounted through the magazine well and the belt was fed upside-down through a cutout in the receiver, actuated by a feed-cam machined in the bolt carrier.

Since the Colt design was based on an assault rifle, it was not merely another light machine gun (LMG), but represented an entirely new concept – the Assault Machine Gun (AMG). Colt's conversion also allowed the gun to use a standard box magazine (after removing the belt-feed mechanism from the magazine-well) and, while it worked under ideal conditions, it otherwise displayed marginal performance, was never fit for combat, and was not mar-

keted. Only a dozen or so M16 belt-feed units were made by Colt, using modified Stoner 5.56x45mm (.223) links. Sometime in the mid-1980's, Jonathan Arthur Ceiner reverse engineered the Colt design and placed it into production. Customer resistance to modification of their firearm's receivers and other factors halted Ciener's production efforts to a rumored 30 additional M16 belt-feed conversions. However, it was by no means the end of a belt-fed AMG based on the M16.

In 1998, a young small-arms designer named Geoffrey A. Herring conceived a vastly improved, unique system for converting the M16 to use a 5.56x45mm NATO caliber belt feed. In Herring's design, the M16's upper receiver would have no part in the conversion and would be completely removed, leaving the lower receiver group to host the new mechanism.

Using the standard lower-receiver group meant that the firing controls and more importantly, the firearm's lower receiver, could remain unchanged and the gun would even fire semi-automatic, all from the closed-bolt position. However, Herring also designed a "drop-in" open-bolt module for use with the Shrike 5.56™, conveniently installed in the unmodified lower receiver should open-bolt sustained firing be desired. An important aspect of Herring's open-bolt module is that it only fits into a military

full-auto lower receiver body, thereby impeding the potentially illegal efforts of those wishing to install the device in a semi-auto only rifle for conversion to full-auto.

In addition, Herring's design also allows the gun to use the standard M16 NATO magazine in the existing magazine well. The transition from belt to magazine and vice-versa is instantaneous, requiring no special efforts on the part of the operator. This is especially important in a firefight or under the stress of combat. Incorporating proven features used in a number of light machineguns (LMG's), Geoffrey Herring began building a proof-of-concept prototype. It worked, but refinement and improvements became necessary in a number of areas. These were made and the new company he formed, ARES Defense Systems (Advanced Research and Engineering Services for Defense Systems), began showing the gun on its web site. During further testing more corrections were made, many in areas subcontracted to outside vendors. After several years and lots of money, ARES Defense Systems, Inc. began production of the gun "they" said couldn't be built; a successful belt-fed conversion of the M16. It's called the Shrike 5.56 – Advanced Weapons System™. Four U.S. patents have been awarded to Herring for his inventions manifest in the Shrike 5.56™ and others are pending.

(opposite page) Decades of attempts by various designers to build a reliable belt-fed AR all came to naught – until Geoffrey Herring of ARES Defense Systems, Inc. perfected the Shrike 5.56 Advanced Weapons System. Shown here is the Shrike 5.56-SOF with 16" barrel, ARES-16SPW lower receiver with 6-position stock, MIL-STD (1913) rail handguard, Aimpoint Comp M3 optical sight, SureFire M900A vertical foregrip/light and 200-round SAW ammunition container.

Let's take a close look.

Aside from a slightly modified bolt hold-open lever and a heavier recoil spring (both furnished), the lower receiver group remains unchanged and the Shrike 5.56™ upper receiver component attaches to it using the original pushpins. Made of aircraft quality 7075-T6 alloy, the SHRIKE 5.56™ upper receiver is a totally new part containing counterparts different from those used in the standard M16.

The barrel is a quick-change design with its own barrel extension and short-stroke gas piston and cylinder, much like the U.S. M60 GPMG. When a hot and dirty barrel is changed, the replacement barrel brings a fresh gas cylinder and piston with it instead of the half-seized pistons common to many other machine guns. Unlike most others, the gas cylinder and piston of the SHRIKE 5.56™ is located on the left side of the barrel instead of on the bottom, key to its dual-feed capability. The standard 16.25" barrel is held in place by a spring-loaded lug, and complete accessory barrels of 12.5", 14.5", 16.25" and 18" are also offered.

As with all short-stroke impingement systems, the piston of the SHRIKE 5.56™ imparts only the energy necessary, to the bolt carrier via the spring-loaded operating rod on the left side of the receiver, to send the entire bolt group to full recoil. During the bolt carrier's recoil stroke the bolt is unlocked, the expended casing is extracted and ejected from the weapon, the recoil spring is fully compressed, the ammunition belt is partially advanced and the disintegrating ammunition link is ejected from the feed tray. All of this occurs within just 3-3/4 inches of recoil stroke, after which all elements of the bolt group stop against the back of the buffer tube.

When the bolt moves forward under the force of the compressed recoil spring, its top lug contacts the rim (head) of the loaded cartridge from underneath, pushing it forward out of its link and into the chamber. While the bolt is closing its final 1/8-inch prior to rotation and locking, the spring-loaded ejector is fully compressed and the extractor slips over the rim just prior to the multi-lug bolt rotating to the locked position by a cam-groove in the bolt carrier. As the bolt carrier continues for-

ward, the bolt is rotated and the auto sear is tripped, releasing the hammer to fire the chambered round. This cycle will repeat itself at the rate of about 750 rounds per minute (RPM) in the full automatic mode, so long as the trigger is depressed and ammunition remains.

Belt Feeding Mechanism

Operating with a hinged top cover not unlike those of the M2, M1919, MG42, Soviet RPD, M60, Stoner 63, M240, M249 and a host of others, the feed mechanism of the Shrike 5.56™ has earned its place as all but foolproof in the history of LMG's.

The belt advancing mechanism used in the Shrike 5.56™ is a two-step shuttle feed, derived from the German MG-42 of World War II, a gun known for its reliability. Lineage to its excellent belt-feeding mechanism may also be found in the U.S. M60, the U.S. M240, the U.S. M249 and most recently, the Navy's Mk46, Mod 0 and the Mk48, Mod 0 to name just a few.

To better understand the Shrike 5.56™ belt-feeding cycle, we must first

outline the components of the feeding mechanism and how they interact with each other. The main feeding components are housed within the upper receiver's top-cover assembly that works in conjunction with the feed tray. The feed tray and top-cover are mated to the receiver by a hinge-pin located just behind the quick-change barrel latch, where the top-cover pivots for loading of the ammunition belt. At the rear of the top-cover is a thumb-operated latch that locks the top-cover to the Shrike 5.56™ upper receiver. The bolt carrier group provides the energy to actuate the belt-feeding mechanism.

The ammunition belt lies between the top-cover and feed tray. The feed tray guides the ammunition fed into the gun and into the chamber, and also guides the empty links out of the weapon. Housed within the top-cover are all components of the mechanism. A spring-biased feed-cam lever allows the top cover to be open and closed with the bolt carrier forward or locked to the rear, making the timing of the feed system automatic regardless of bolt car-

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The Shrike 5.56-S (Standard) can fire either from a detachable magazine – box or drum as shown here with Beta Company 100-round C-MAG – or from a belt, depending on the mission.

rier position. As the top-cover is closed, the cartridge guides accurately position the cartridge in the feed tray where they also engage the stripping surface of the ammunition link. This feature is of great value when loading an ammunition belt under stress.

When the carrier moves to the rear, the feed-roller advances the ammunition belt a distance called a half-pitch, positioning the next round for pickup and chambering by the bolt. As the bolt carrier moves forward, it cams the next cartridge a half-pitch where a pawl holds it until the carrier moves to the rear to position it, and so on.

MIL-STD (1913) Friendly

Since the Shrike 5.56™ was intended to complement all current M16 variants, it was designed to be fully MIL-STD (1913) compatible, and it can be had with either a standard insulated round handguard, or an accessory MIL-STD (1913) four-rail handguard system.

The MIL-STD (1913) designation refers to the rail system often called the “Picatinny Rail” which was designed by Mr. Richard Swan, of A.R.M.S., Inc. With regard to the Shrike 5.56™, the hinged feed cover has an integral MIL-STD (1913) rail machined on top of it, and this rail will accommodate a variety of optical sights.

Unlike most LMG's, Herring designed the non-reciprocating charging handle on the SHRIKE 5.56™ to be located on the left side of the receiver like that of the FN-FAL rifle, and it folds up when not in use. Herring placed the handle on the left side for speed in charging the

gun during reloads and for immediate action in case of a misfire. During firing the handle remains in the forward position under pressure from a detent pin and spring.

Shrike 5.56™ M203 Mount

To complement the Shrike 5.56™ with another component of the M4/M16, Geoffrey Herring and his team designed a special mounting system for the M203 40mm grenade launcher. Mounting to a MIL-STD (1913) rail, the SHRIKE 5.56™'s M203 mount is QD (quick detach) for instant mounting and removal. Herring points out that the significant size and weight savings of the Shrike 5.56™ as compared to all other machine guns makes the M203 addition both practical and extremely desirable.



The Shrike 5.56-SOF/CQB (Special Operations Forces/Close Quarters Battle) with 12.5" CQB barrel, ARES-16SPW lower receiver with 6-position stock, MIL-STD (1913) rail handguard, Aimpoint Comp M3 optical sight, SureFire M900A vertical foregrip/light and 200-round SAW ammunition container. The operator can transform the weapon from the Shrike 5.56-SOF to the CQB in approximately 10 seconds, with a simple press of the quick-change barrel lever ergonomically located in front of the top-cover.

Ammunition Supply and Devices

Herring designed the Shrike 5.56™ to function with the common M27 disintegrating link, the same link used with the U.S. M249 SAW (Squad Automatic Weapon) and most other 5.56 belt guns. A standard M16 rifle or M4 carbine outfitted with the Shrike 5.56™ can also feed from the standard 100 and 200 round linked ammunition containers and starter tabs used with the M249 SAW. Herring invented and designed an adapter that locks into the M16 magazine well and accepts the dovetail mount on M249 ammunition containers. This significant development helps streamline logistical support of weapons and ammunition and simplifies ammunition handling for the operator.

If an operator wishes to change containers, he has only to interchange the containers in the normal manner used with the M249 SAW. If all linked ammunition is depleted, the operator simply presses the magazine release, allowing the adapter and SAW ammunition container to drop free from the weapon. He can then insert a box magazine and continue firing.

In addition to using existing M16- and M4-type lower receiver groups, ARES Defense is making its own lower receivers consisting of two types; one in the standard configuration and the other as a dedicated belt feed. This means that the new version will not accept M16 magazines. Instead, the magazine well is almost entirely removed from the raw forging and a tapered dovetail surface is machined in its place, including a locking method for the 200-round SAW ammunition container or the 100 round soft pack. Although this configu-

ration eliminates the use of the box magazine, it allows the weapon to be operated about 2.5 inches lower to the ground, a very important feature.

The select-fire and full-auto models are called the Ares-16SPW and they are designed to fill a role similar to FN's Mk 46, Mod. 0, but with a significantly reduced size and weight envelope. The ARES-16SPW lower receiver adds a new and valuable dimension to the Shrike 5.56 - Advanced Weapons System™ and new patents are currently pending on Herring's invention and design of this lower receiver.

Quick-Change Barrel Assault Rifle

Installing the Shrike 5.56™ on an M16 or M4 type lower receiver does not require that it become a belt-fed weapon. By merely removing the belt-feed top cover via a pushpin and replacing it with a non-belt top cover, the Shrike 5.56™ becomes a piston-operated assault rifle with a quick-change barrel that uses standard M16 and Beta C magazines. The standard top cover even has a MIL-STD (1913) rail built right in and like the belt feed cover, has its own windage-adjustable M16A2 style rear sight.

Like the M4 and M16, the Shrike 5.56™ can use any butt-stock system common to the M16 family including the LMT SOCOM stock, the VLTOR ModStock, the MagPul Stock and the excellent ACE SOCOM 16 Stock. Other M16 accessories that are also common to the Shrike 5.56™ include pistol grips from Hogue, Falcon Industries, World Wide Ordnance, Buffer Technologies and others.

The Shrike 5.56™'s round, ventilated handguard with black ribbed insulator is the commercial standard model. An accessory MIL-STD (1913) 4-rail system will accept various bipods including the new GripPod recently adopted by FN for its SCAR Light and Heavy rifles. The forend MIL-STD (1913) rails will also accept all MIL-STD accessories including tactical lights by SureFire and Insight Technology, and lasers including the military PEQ-2 Laser Designator and the M203 40mm grenade launcher.

The feed cover's top MIL-STD (1913) rail will accept a variety of optical sights including all reflex sights, as well as long-range optics and night vision devices (NVDs). For special applications and eye-relief problems, the QD MOA Solution Rail from Mounting Solutions Plus (MSP) will extend eye relief further to the rear. This is particularly important with some NVD's.

Barrels and Barrel Devices

Herring designed the various barrel lengths and profiles to be fully compatible with military sound suppressors such as Knight Armament's Sound Suppressor Kit, NSN: 1005-01-437-0324, a QD design used by USSOCOM forces and others. The Shrike 5.56™ will also accept the new SureFire M4Fav suppressor. On a recent visit to Ares Defense, SureFire representative Rory McGahan demonstrated their new suppressor and Herring was very pleased with both the repeatability of the suppressor and its QD mount. In addition to detachable suppressors, Ares Defense is also making available their own suppressed barrel assemblies with fixed suppressor. These will be marketed under the trade name "ShockWave™" and it is my understanding that they are very effective.

The big plus with a non-removable suppressor is that it won't come loose during periods of sustained fire and point of impact should remain the same throughout the firing sequence. The Shrike 5.56™ will also accept the standard M16 issue BFA and it will function reliably with blanks in both the belt-feed and magazine-feed modes of fire, an extremely



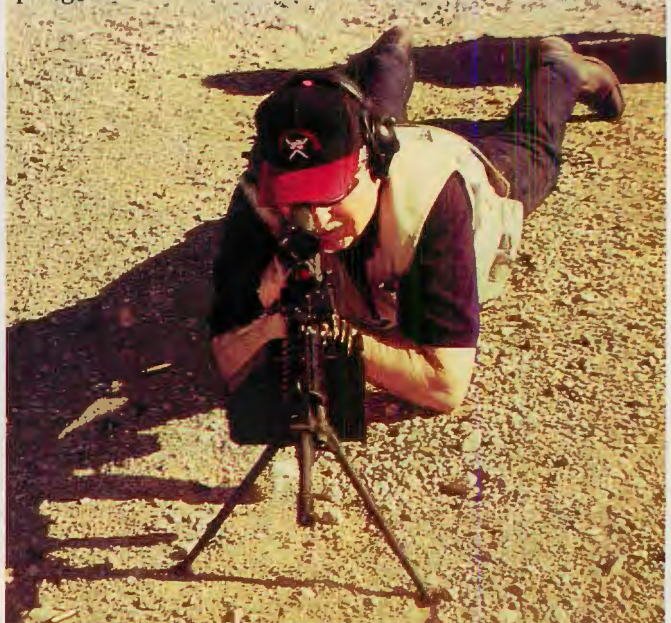
The Shrike 5.56 has been designed to use virtually every accessory, adaptive weapon or sight designed for the M16/M4 weapons systems, including the M203 40mm grenade launcher, shown here with prototype quick-detach mount. Note the Picatinny rail section on QD mount for accepting accessories such as SureFire M900A, when M203 is not employed.

important factor to military training.

Hands On Test

During the 2005 SHOT Show I was privileged to test two versions of the Shrike 5.56™, with Geoffrey Herring making special arrangements with PMC to use their superb test range. One of the Shrike 5.56™ guns had a 12-inch barrel with standard ARES-16 lower receiver, M203 grenade launcher and telescoping M4 stock. The other had a 16-inch barrel with special ARES-16SPW lower receiver and a fixed A2 stock. Both were brand new and unfired.

We drove to the range with the two guns and 2,000 rounds of 5.56x45mm M193 ball and M856 tracer ammunition furnished by Long Mountain Outfitters. This was old 1992 Lake City 5.56 NATO ammo that had been re-linked with a mixture of M27 SAW and S63 Stoner links. Geoff informed me that the fixed-stock Shrike 5.56™ had an experimental recoil spring that was heavier than standard that he was anxious to



Author hunkers down behind a Shrike at PMC's range near Las Vegas. He found weapons to be accurate, controllable and reliable.



(left) Like most successful post-war light machine guns, the Shrike can trace its belt feed mechanism to the MG-42. (right) The Shrike's quick-change barrel also swaps out the gas system, so a fresh barrel is not mated with dirty operating components. The front sight is adjustable for both windage and elevation, allowing the barrel-zero to be pre-set by the operator. Adjustable gas regulator has four operating positions.

test, but he cautioned that it might experience short strokes, especially with the lower-powered M193 ammunition. He confided that with a larger military customer in mind, the Shrike 5.56™ has been optimized for M855 ball with M856 tracer on current U.S. Government-issue M27 links.

At the range, Geoff ran me through the entire operation of the Shrike 5.56™ before we began shooting, and after some photographic layouts we went hot for the remainder of the morning. Following some familiarization shooting and initial testing of the fixed-stock Shrike 5.56™ and its heavy recoil spring, we began shooting some semi-automatic and short bursts from the bench off the bipod, at Pepper popper

targets at 200 yards, using open sights. I hit them nearly every time on semi-automatic and at least once from each 3-shot burst.

After shooting a few bursts standing, we moved forward of the line to shoot from various positions. Since this range is located against a mountain of solid rock, there was no danger of brush fires from the tracers and we shot hundreds of rounds of them. Although the traces don't show up on film, we could easily follow them by eye.

During this shooting, the 12-inch barrel Shrike 5.56™ performed flawlessly, but the fixed-stock gun experienced one short stroke while Geoff was firing it. Later on I experienced the exact malfunction while firing this

gun prone. These were the only malfunctions experienced in the more than 1,500 rounds fired, and they were both from the Shrike 5.56™ with the heavy recoil spring. Geoffrey explained that short-strokes can be easily corrected by increasing the gas flow through the adjustable regulator, but that it is desirable to operate the weapon with as little amount of gas as needed to cycle the weapon reliably. A lower setting provides for a slower cycle rate, increased hit probability and increased weapon component life.

The short-barreled Shrike 5.56™ with its retractable stock was fitted with an M203 40mm grenade launcher mounted on a prototype of the mounting system described above. Although



With belt feed, mounting an M203 grenade launcher, the Shrike 5.56 can give an individual operator unprecedented firepower. Shown here is the Shrike 5.56-S/CQB (Standard/Close Quarters Battle) with suppressor-capable 12.5" CQB barrel, 100-round SAW soft ammunition pack, QD-M203 40mm grenade launcher and Aimpoint Comp M3 with A.R.M.S. throw lever mount.



The Shrike upper mates to MilSpec M16/M4 lowers; note quick-change barrel, modified bolt carrier, retracting handle and belt port.

this M4-size Shrike 5.56™ was slightly heavier than its assault rifle counterpart, shooting it with the M203 mounted felt pretty much the same. Since the short-barreled Shrike 5.56™ was mounted on a standard ARES-16 lower receiver, we decided to try some 30-round magazines. After all, the ability to reliably switch between linked ammunition and box magazines is one of the qualities that make the Shrike 5.56™ so unique: It also worked flawlessly with magazines.

The Future of Ares Defense and the Shrike 5.56™

While traveling back to SHOT Show from PMC's range, I asked Geoff some questions about the progress Ares Defense was making with Shrike 5.56™ production efforts. He was candid with his response and he explained that when the decision was originally made to place the weapon into production, the company had planned to outsource approximately 80% of the components and manufacture the remainder in-house on their MAZAK CNC machin-

ing centers. As fate would have it, lackluster performance on the part of some vendors and in some cases, poor quality components, were received. Herring refuses to lower the quality standards he imposed on the product and as a consequence, they are now building almost the entire weapon in-house! These things take time, especially with a new product.

However, things are looking up. After seven years of hard-core research and development, testing and evaluation and finally production, there is light at the end of the tunnel for the Shrike 5.56™ and those who are anxiously awaiting it. Ares Defense Systems, Inc. has lined up customers both in the U.S. and abroad, and they have also developed a full Technical Data Package (TDP) to support the manufacture and advancement of the Shrike 5.56™ and its myriad accessories. This is an important step in the military procurement process and it is also necessary in the event that other U.S. or foreign manufacturers negotiate production rights to the Shrike 5.56™ under a licensing agreement with Ares Defense.

Herring sums it up in his own words, "I've accomplished everything that I set out to do when I first conceived the Shrike 5.56™, and even more. I had never owned a belt-fed gun before I got that first Shrike 5.56™ prototype running. That was a great motivator but another was the fact that I couldn't find a belt-fed weapon in the world that



Johnston and the Shrike 5.56™'s designer, Geoffrey Herring, pose with the test guns at the PMC Range in Las Vegas, Nevada.



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The Shrike 5.56 can be readily converted to a Designated Marksman or Automatic Rifle configuration by replacing the belt-feed top cover and feed tray with this standard non-belt cover featuring MIL-STD (1913) rail. The cover accepts mission-specific optics, such as this Leupold 3-9 variable scope and the resulting weapon is capable of superb accuracy while fed from a standard box or drum magazine.

possessed the high performance qualities that I wanted or thought they should have. All I found were overpriced dinosaurs that weighed a lot and left much to be desired."

He continued, "I raced motorcycles in my youth and aside from physical and emotional conditioning, machine performance is everything when it's time to win a race. Combat is no different; it's a race for your life. I wanted an extremely lightweight modular system that was dual-feed with both a belt and a magazine. I wanted a quick-change barrel of various lengths and I wanted 5.56mm NATO so that I could carry a lot of ammo. I wanted piston-operation and I settled on a short-stroke tappet design for performance in waterborne operations. I wanted it to fit on an M16 and M4 lower receiver without permanent modification to the lower. I wanted it to be CQB capable for vehicle use and house-to-house fighting. I wanted the lighter weight and ergonomics of the M16, but

Specifications: Shrike 5.56™ AMG

Inventor/Designer:	Geoffrey A. Herring
Manufacturer:	Ares Defense Systems, Inc.
Caliber:	5.56x45mm NATO.
Muzzle Velocity:	2800 fps to 3200 fps.
Operation:	Short-stroke gas piston.
Type of Fire:	Selective.
Method of Locking:	Multi-lug rotating bolt.
Barrel Length:	12.5", 14.5", 16.25" and 20".
Rate of Twist:	1-in 7 or 9 – inch, RHT.
Overall Length:	27.5 – 39 inches.
Weight:	As low as 7.5 lbs.
Safety:	Safety/selector (ambidextrous optional).
Feed Device:	100- or 200-round belt or any M16 magazine.
Sights:	M16A2 type sights. MIL-STD (1913) rail system accepts most optics.
Stock Furniture:	Standard or aftermarket M16 pistol grip and butt stocks.
Finish:	MIL-STD Phosphate and Type III hard-coat anodized with dull black finish.

when I pulled the trigger I wanted it to roar like a SAW. I wanted it to feed from standard M249 ammunition sources for improved logistics. In the event that a 200 round container got knocked off of the weapon, I wanted it to still pull that free-hanging belt without stalling. I wanted it to be intuitive for an operator, easy to maintain, easy to repair, familiar in controls and easy to train on. When I threw it to my cheek, I wanted to be looking down M16 sights because that's the weapon that I trained on. When I wanted to add an optic or accessory, I wanted a place to mount it. I wanted a full engineering package so that the Shrike 5.56™ could be produced in quantity with predictable results. And ultimately, I wanted performance and reliability. So, I got what I wanted; I got everything that I wanted. I got the perfect Assault Machine Gun! ARES Defense has developed an extremely high-performance modular family of weapons and now we want our customers and soldiers to have them."

When asked why he chose the M16 as the host platform Herring replied, "I love the 'Black Rifle.' It's timeless and Colt has done a fantastic job in placing almost 10 million of them across the globe. It has served our country well and in my opinion, it's far from being replaced in spite of advertisements to the contrary. The Shrike 5.56™ breaths new life into the Black Rifle and it does it with the quality and performance one expects in the 21st century and that which is necessary to win on today's battlefield. The Shrike 5.56™ can be supplied as a new weapon, or as an upgrade to existing weapons, and it's rearward compatible to the Colt-Armalite Mod. 01. The Shrike 5.56™'s life is just beginning and you're probably going to be seeing a lot more of it in the near future."

With small arms programs thriving such as SCAR, OICW and others, one has to wonder where it will all end and if the Shrike 5.56 - Advanced Weapons System™ will play a role in the future of U.S. Small Arms Programs. Geoffrey Herring may have his suspicions, but he's not talking just yet. Stay tuned.

New Aimpoint Comp M3

At the SHOT Show, Aimpoint, Inc., not only displayed its new 3X Magnifier, but also its even newer Comp M3 Red Dot Reflex Sight. Designed especially for the 3X Magnifier, the Comp M3 has a 2 MOA Red Dot instead of a 4 MOA, but that's not all. The Comp M3 is submersible to 175 feet and – get this – has a battery life of 50,000 hours. That's right, this Aimpoint's power source could last for an entire war. Otherwise the Comp M3 looks exactly like the Comp M2. A new protective rubber boot is also new from Aimpoint and can be had in black or tan.

On display in prototype at MSP's booth was a brand new mount designed just for the Aimpoint 3X Magnifier. Called the Quick-Flip, this mount replaces Aimpoint's original Quick Twist mount where the 3X is removed when not needed. With the Quick-Flip, a pad is depressed releasing the 3X Magnifier to instantly flip out of the way for CQB work and then instantly rotated up to lock back behind the Comp M3.

Aimpoint and MSP were kind enough to let us borrow these units to test with the Shrike 5.56™, not only the first such live-fire test of them together, but on a belt fed machine-gun no less. We simply mounted the units in tandem on the top cover using their A.R.M.S. QD ThrowLever mounts. The combination worked flawlessly and Geoff was so impressed that he has since arranged to offer it with the Shrike 5.56™. As I write this, the Quick-Flip has been further refined for ambidextrous use. Look for an in-depth report on it in a future issue of SOF.

Continued on page 80

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What has changed and what makes this military-styled rifle exceptional is the new thick-walled, extruded A3-style upper receiver with ejection port cover, shell deflector, forward assist and standard-height Picatinny rail. Additional features include a standard A2 front sight assembly, a six-position telescoping buttstock and a heavy barrel styled after an AP4 contoured barrel. Hard-coat anodizing and black Teflon R coating along with a 308 Panther flashhider complete the package.



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A new AR-15/M16 Buttstock Tool from Brownells® has made it handier to disassemble and reassemble the rifles' M4 collapsible buttstocks. Useful on the range or in the shop, the new buttstock tool's compact size makes it easy to stow in a range bag or hang on pegboard behind the workbench. The tool eliminates the need for having multiple tools to work with the M4 stock, and at only 7 inches long, it requires hardly any room to take to the range. Machined from high-grade tool steel with a black oxidized finish, the M4 tool provides all the tools necessary for buttstock disassembly or reassembly.



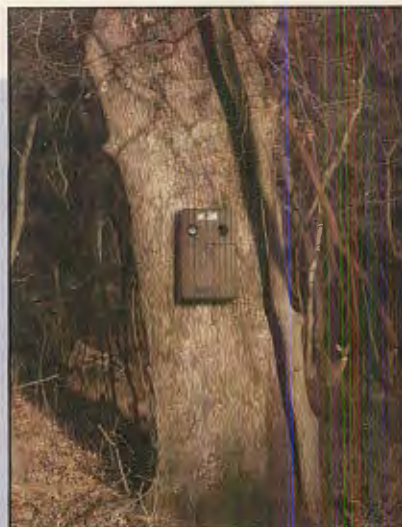
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Continued from page 10

website explaining the confusion. This does not detract from Mr. Washington's generosity, but in the interest of accuracy I thought I'd call your attention to this. Keep up the good work!

Sincerely,
Michael Click

http://www.fisherhouse.org/inTheNews/actor_04_13_SS.shtml

Thanks for setting the record straight. For our readers who may not be on-line, the gist of the info on the above site is that confusion arose when an announcement was made of Washington's generous gift, at the same time that an announcement was made of a new Fisher House being funded, which led to the story in The Stars and Stripes. Although Washington's donation might buy a house for a typical SOF editor, building a Fisher House usually requires the kind donations from many caring individuals. We know you readers care about the families of wounded servicemen, so keep Fisher House in mind when you are in a position to help.

Denigrating "Do-Gooders"

When I was reading your May 2005 issue I just couldn't believe it. The guest column of U.S. Navy Officer Ed Stanton was just forcing the anger in me to come up again. Phrases

like "his warship had been transformed into a floating hotel for trifling do-gooders" just irritated me. I just don't understand you...aren't we (especially the United States) fighting for peace and freedom? I think it is a good thing that a warship is not sent to war. The military is a protection and peace-keeping force, and not a violent, "having-fun-killing-people" force. Many of you might forget down range, what you are actually fighting for! When you help victims of a catastrophe, you can see happiness and hope in their eyes, and it is the most wonderful thing to see! Additionally, future wars can be avoided because your image was "polished" up helping catastrophe victims. I hope I got you thinking a bit about this topic,

Best regards
Nicolas Skaletski

We agree with what you say, but fear you missed his whole point. His point was not that the ship was being prevented from killing the masses, but that the ship's mission of helping those in distress was being drastically hampered by the "trifling do-gooders" who had come in under the flag of doing good, but who were in large measure just along for the vacation and getting in the way of the substantial relief efforts the Navy was involved in.

Ooops on June 2005 Issue

Re: SOF issue June 2005. On page 44, large picture of sniper/spotter using suppressed "M16." The rifle is without a doubt a Knight's Armament Co. SR-25/ Mk11 Mod 0 in the

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by Frank Sherrill

I was the total skeptic. Not only had I lifted weights for years, but after 21 years in the martial arts and several more in the military, I thought I'd seen it all. So I just didn't believe **Matt Furey** when he said you can get kick-butt fit with bodyweight calisthenics, that I figured I went through in bootcamp. Besides, I could bench 400 and squat 625. So there's no way I was going to fall for a routine that I figured I already knew. Been there, done that!

But I couldn't shake this feeling that Furey might be right. I had read about the **Great Gama** of India, a wrestler who followed this program and was unbeaten in 5,000 matches. In terms of size and strength, he was amazing. He was 5'7" and 260 pounds of streaming steel. And that was in the early 1900's - long before steroids.

I had heard that **Bruce Lee** did the exercises Furey teaches, too. And we all know about Lee's incredible ripped, lean, muscular look. Not to mention how lightning fast and fluid he was.

I had heard that **Herschel Walker**, a Heisman Trophy winner and All-Pro Running back did 500 pushups and situps each day. So that made me think even more.

And then the final straw was when I started to read all the testimonials that Furey had collected from fellow military (I have included several of them in this article).

And then, of course, there is Furey, the author of **Combat Conditioning** and the man GRAPPLING magazine dubbed "The King of Catch Wrestling." Furey has been featured in major martial arts magazines around the world, has been on the cover of several - and is certainly no slouch when it comes to having and using functional strength. He was a world champion in Shuai-chiao kung fu and a national collegiate champion wrestler. Something told me he had to be telling the truth.

I figured the only way I would ever know for sure would be to get the program and use it. I told myself that if what I was reading was nothing but marketing hype - I would not only be angry - but I would let everyone in the world know about it.

So I bought Furey's **Combat Conditioning** book and read it. In the book he challenges the readers with a test. 100 Hindu squats, followed by 50 Hindu pushups, then a one-minute back bridge.

Figuring this would be easy, I got started. At 40 Hindu squats my thighs were blitzed. It took about 90 seconds; not long compared to my squat routine at the gym.

Next, I tried the Hindu pushups. Funny thing is my legs were still shaking. I dipped down and pushed back. At 15 my arms were throbbing. This couldn't be. No way. I could bench like there's no tomorrow and this exercise was nuking me. I gave up at 27 reps. This took about 1.5 minutes, so my workout had only been 2.5 minutes long.

Then the bridge. After three unsuccessful attempts of ten seconds, I gave up. The next day my legs, chest and arms were sore, but in a good way. I thought my legs got 10 times more work with weights, but I was wrong.

Over the course of three months my body changed big time. In fact, I've made a list of 12 of the most amazing benefits that I and thousands of others all over the world have gotten from the **Combat Conditioning** program. I'm betting these are important to you, too:

1. I blow-torched off my excess body fat so quickly that I could eat more than I normally did and still look better than ever.
2. I packed and chiseled functional muscle onto my legs, chest and back that I've never had before, even from weights.
3. I simultaneously doubled my strength and flexibility - and did so without needing separate workouts for each.
4. I quadrupled my endurance inside of 30 days. Just think how much this helped my sparring. No matter what, I NEVER get tired.
5. The chronic back and shoulder pain I had from years of heavy squats, deadlifts and bench pressing went away within a couple weeks. And much of that pain had been with me for nearly 10 years. It's GONE now.

6. I sleep like a log. Eight hours of deep sleep is no longer a goal. It's automatic. As soon as I hit the rack I'm out like a light.
7. My self-confidence knows no bounds. Especially when I got compliments from people who hardly paid attention to me before. I honestly believe there is nothing I cannot do. I'm on top of the world.
8. I can train anywhere. I don't need more than a few square feet of carpet or pavement and I'm all set. I have absolutely no excuses and my body is loving me for it. I don't need any equipment. Just my own bodyweight.
9. I get a kick-butt workout done in 15 minutes or less. Sure, I could do more - but I've gotten incredible results with this amount - so why ruin a good thing?
10. I've turned back the clock. My friends tell me I look 5 - 10 years younger. Awesome!!
11. I have an explosive type of strength that weights couldn't give me. My movements are super fast even when I'm just screwing around.
12. My muscles are like a pliable and powerful tiger - ready to pounce on prey in a heartbeat.

So there you have it. The 12 reasons why **Combat Conditioning** is the best fitness program on the planet. But forget about me.

Take a look at what some others in the military have to say about this program:

Matt, I am a US Marine stationed overseas. I am also a wrestler/judoka and the Marine who developed the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program. I use your courses regularly. I like your no-nonsense approach. Particularly as I get older, bodyweight exercises are quick, flexible, all-encompassing and convenient. Keep up the good work!
Lt Colonel George Bristol - USMC

Mr. Furey, We have been applying the principle of 'mastering your own body weight' to our football program and have been pleased. A 12 - 1 championship season last year was our reward. Thank you sir.
Bonner Cummings
Yosemite, CA

Dear Matt, When I got your book, I changed my whole way of thinking about how one should train for Combatives. I am now totally off the weights, and, to tell you the truth, I have never felt better or been more flexible in my life. I feel great and have lost no size, strength, or muscle mass... as a result I scored the maximum number of points on the Army Physical Fitness test. HOOAH! You are doing great things, and I and the U.S. Army Officer Candidate School owe you a lot.
TREAT'EM ROUGH!

CPT Judd D. Mahfouz - Infantry

*Dear Mr. Furey, Let me say I have benefited a lot from both your **Combat Conditioning** and **Combat Abs** book. I am a Marine stationed on Okinawa, Japan and I do a lot of kickboxing and NHB fighting on the side. Your exercises have given me a tremendous advantage and combined with my other routines (shadowboxing, sparring, bagwork, wind sprints, and grappling drills) have gotten me into the best shape of my life.*
LCpl Sandor Devenyi - United States Marine Corps



Matt Furey, author of the best-selling **Combat Conditioning**.

Dear Matt,

*Being a U.S. Marine in a field unit, I spend much of my time in Physical Training, and I'll admit, I thought that I was in peak physical condition. 2 months ago I began your **Combat Conditioning** program and quickly realized that I had been missing something. While platoon PT consists of mostly running and incorporates some bodyweight exercises (i.e. pushups, pull-ups, crunches) I had been spending the bulk of my personal training time in the weight room, lifting heavy. It embarrassed me the first time I tried to do a reverse pushup and couldn't. I haven't set foot in the weight room in the last 2 months. My 3 mile run time has dropped to below 18 minutes, I've lost a good 10 lbs and my body fat has dropped 4%. You can see the difference and God knows, I can feel the difference. I've introduced the rest of my squad to your program. Thanks for helping us kick ass and take names in a hellish and unforgiving manner.*

*D "Bubba" Byng - LCPL, USMC
"Golf" Co, MGS Battalion*

Matt Furey's **Combat Conditioning: Functional Exercises for Fitness & Combat Sports** has 48 super effective bodyweight exercises along with seven different programs that will get you into kick-butt shape fast. Be one of the first 25 people to order and you'll receive 3 free **Special Reports** on how to eliminate knee, back and shoulder pain.

Your total investment in this no nonsense book is only \$29.95 plus \$6 S&H U.S. (foreign orders add \$12). Order online at www.mattfurey.com. Or pick up the phone right now and call 1 813 994 8267 to order.

You can also send a money order to Matt Furey Enterprises, Inc., 10339 Birdwatch Drive, Tampa, FL, 33647.

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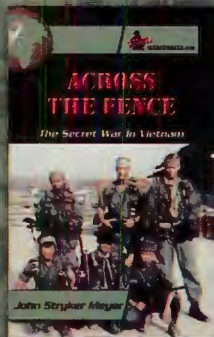
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7.62 NATO flavor. It's bone stock (as shipped) other than the little rail added to the forward scope ring. I work in "Gun Assembly" at KAC in Titusville, Florida, and was shocked yet pleased to see one of Our Babies at work on your pages. I can't really blame you since the rifle has no name tape like the soldier using it!

Great magazine and thanks for the "on the ground" type of war coverage you provide!

Thanks,
Pooky Bear
Cocoa Florida

Wanted: Boots to Spec

I'm an Electronic Warfare Systems Maintainer in the 129th Rescue Wing, California Air National Guard. Our unit is getting ready to deploy, and I need to get hold of personal gear for the deployment.

One of the things that I need is Desert Boots with a non-metallic safety toe and Gore-Tex liner. The problem is that nobody makes those specific boots right now. However, I have spoken with Danner boots, and they are willing to make the boots I need, but they require a minimum order of 300 pairs, which I obviously can't do on my own.

I have forwarded that information up the chain of command at my unit, but it has apparently fallen on deaf ears (lack on money and/or lack of interest).

So, I am looking for alternative ways

of being able to meet the minimum order requirement. I'm wondering if you might be able to mention/advertise/whatever in your magazine, the situation, in hopes that I might be able to collect a large enough group of people to meet the order.

If this might be possible, or if you might know of other ways that I could do this, I'd greatly appreciate the help.

Thank you.

TSgt John Szelog
John.Szelog@CAMOFF.ANG.AF.MIL

We're publishing your email address, so you can be contacted by others of similar need, or perhaps by a major dealer who might consider stocking such footwear in volume. Good luck and come home safe.

Wanted: Gloves

I'm writing to ask your advice. My son is active duty Navy and will be going to Iraq in June. He's an engineer and will be involved in helping Iraqis build hospitals, bridges, schools, etc.

A friend, who is former Special Forces, has recommended we give our son a good pair of all-leather gloves, with a wide cinch strap at the wrist for support. I have not been able to find that combination. In the May 2005 issue of *Soldier of Fortune*, I checked all the web sites that looked like they might carry this type of glove. I have also searched

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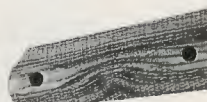
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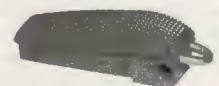
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on-line, with no success.

My friend says they exist and suggested I write you. Can you suggest a company that might carry them? Thank you for any help you can give.

Margaret Oosterman

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Thank you so much for responding to my request. The company had exactly what we were looking for.

Margaret Oosterman

Re: Private Guns in Reserve

...members of [this particular] NY National Guard unit in Afghanistan are now being allowed to carry their M16s and a basic combat load after they were attacked four times in two days [on poppy eradication missions]. They are still not allowed to carry side arms or basic combat knives though. I "loaned" one soldier my personal Ka-Bar to take as they weren't being issued any bayonets or another blade and I wanted him to make it home, as I do all of our troops.

Most of the troops on active duty I have spoken to are allowed to take side arms, even if personally owned ones, into the combat zones on deployment, but us Guard and Reserve soldiers are being really hindered by red tape on what we can bring to help us insure that we return home safely... I dislike being limited in my ability to come home soundly. I'm not afraid of dying and knew that was a risk I'd take by enlisting in the combat arms, but being killed from the lack of being able to shoot back because some jello spine limits my tools of the trade wasn't part of my thought process.

I thank you for your time and your interest in finding out the truth for the American public. I look forward to the next copy of your magazine as I feel it helps me be better prepared for any deployment I may be sent on. ✕

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Continued from page 34



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of Americans were murdered in a brutal, well-planned, well-executed act of war against the United States about which CIA had been essentially blind. And yet incredibly Tenet later told a congressional hearing 9/11 was not an "intelligence failure."

Tenet's CIA fumbled the WMD intelligence issue prior to the invasion of Iraq. Despite this, according to Washington uber-reporter Bob Woodward's book *Plan of Attack*, Tenet told President George W. Bush that the proof Saddam had WMD was "a slam dunk."

Now George Tenet doesn't bear sole responsibility. The United States Congress deserves a huge share of the blame for the sorry condition of our intelligence community, or IC. After all, for all those years of decay, rot, political correctness, and risk aversion under Turner, and Webster, and Gates, and Woolsey, and Deutch, and Tenet, the two congressional oversight committees responsible for making sure the IC was functional and the DO was efficient had their collective heads stuck up—excuse me, in the legislative sand, and essentially did nothing to remedy the situation.

Just as bad, by not taking a tough love-approach to oversight and demanding results, Congress for decades looked on from the sidelines as CIA failed in its mission. Indeed, by its own unconscionable dereliction of duty, it could be argued Congress tacitly encouraged CIA leadership to create the current IC culture, which rewards failure with promotions and cash incentives, while stifling creativity, out-of-the-box thinking, and audacity.

And the more I thought about the mess we're in, the more I realized that STIGGINS, MORRIS, Shahram, and others who'd told me horror stories were right: I should write a book about the current state of CIA. Which is how *DIRECT ACTION* (published on 12 June 2005 by William Morrow; \$24.95; and available at bookstores everywhere and on Amazon.com) came to be written.

DIRECT ACTION is about an American intelligence community that is so operationally dysfunctional these days that it has had to outsource its core mission, the collecting of human intelligence. Indeed, HUMINT-gathering by private firms and CIA sub-contractors is something that is actually taking place as you are reading this article.

And even though *DIRECT ACTION* is a work of fiction, the book is built

on the real-world stories told to me by people like STIGGINS, MORRIS, Shahristani, and dozens of other world-class operators. I'm talking about true American heroes. Covert warriors who have spent the best parts of their lives in the worst places on earth. Case officers who, despite the never-ending torrent of "thou-shalt-not" memos pouring out of Langley, still panned for intelligence gold. Case officers who put their careers on the line simply by doing what they'd been hired to do: spotting, assessing, developing, recruiting, and running unilateral agents and networks that might, just might, provide the United States with a hint of our adversaries' intentions and capabilities.

It is unfortunate that many of these shadow warriors came to understand during the last decade or so that the toughest battles they'd face would not be against Usama bin Laden and al Qaeda, Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, the Taliban, or even Abu Musab al-Zarqawi's Iraqi terrorist combatants. The bloodiest combat—and the most casualties—would occur during the constant, grinding, take-no-prisoners bureaucratic war against audacity, creativity, and daring that was being waged day-in, day-out in the corridors of CIA headquarters by the very people who were supposed to lead, inspire, and protect them. ☒

Direct Action

A Covert War Thriller

By John Weisman

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John Weisman is SOF's roving contributing editor. He can be reached at blackops@johnweisman.com, or through his website, www.johnweisman.com.

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Shrike 5.56™ • Continued from page 70

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reputation as being one of the most inhospitable places on earth. Dust storms were a constant problem, covering patrol vehicles and SAS operators with a thin coat of sand. At night, the temperature dropped to minus 15 Celsius, and was even colder when the wind chill was factored in. At times, drizzling rain or snow flurries turned dirt roads into mud slicks. Hard rations were standard on the patrols and water was carefully conserved, being the most scarce commodity on a mission.

During the early days of the deployment, SAS patrols provided a constant flow of information on al Qaeda and Taliban movements along the key roads around Kandahar and in the Helmand Valley near the Iranian border.

On 21 December, the SAS relocated from Rhino to the airport just outside Kandahar and soon began vehicle patrols from their new base. Around Christmas, one of the SAS reconnaissance teams discovered a hidden Taliban fuel and logistics dump. It was put under observation for a day or so before the SAS called in an air strike to destroy it.

Just days later, another patrol was sent on a reconnaissance mission to scope out a network of tunnels and caves thought to house an al Qaeda training base. The SAS, along with U.S. special operators, moved into the complex on 28 December. Although they discovered large amounts of weapons, explosives and ammunition, they found that the enemy had already cleared out. The complex was so large it would take several days to properly search the site.

Another sensitive site exploitation mission involved a compound near Lashkar Gah, one of the residences of Taliban leader Mullah Omar. Initially, the location was put under surveillance.

Once the SAS moved in, they checked the site for intelligence information as well as chemical and biological agents.

The missions in December set the tone for what was to follow. Enemy ammunition dumps and arms caches were being discovered, but the Taliban and al Qaeda had left long ago.

"So these things, I won't say keep turning up with monotonous regularity, but they're out there and it's a matter of essentially finding them," Brigadier Gary Bornholt, the Australian contingent commander, explained at one briefing in January 2002.

Most of the missions the SAS were conducting in southern Afghanistan were covert and leading to a significant amount of quality intelligence, according to Bornholt. The SAS patrols would set up at a "hide" location and then operate from there for several days before moving on. The idea was to keep the enemy off balance, not knowing where the SAS would turn up next. After Australia's participation in the war was over, Brigadier Duncan Lewis, head of the country's special operations command, would reveal that one SAS patrol spent almost three months constantly deployed in the field, moving from location to location.

But, in fact, it seemed that al Qaeda was the one keeping the coalition forces guessing about where its operatives were. A 10-day sweep by the SAS of an area 60 kilometres north of the town of Ghazni came up dry. Other operations involved more sensitive site exploitation work, checking al Qaeda caves and bunkers, all of which were abandoned.

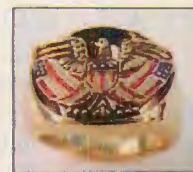


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Making Progress In Iraq

BY LT. COL. OLIVER NORTH, USMC (RET.)

WESTERN IRAQ – “These Marines are great. America ought to be very proud of its Marines, soldiers, sailors and airmen; they’re doing great work out here.” So Marine Col. Stephen Davis, the commander of Regimental Combat Team 2 (RCT-2), told me once we had a chance to talk near al Qaim, Iraq.

Davis is in charge of Operation Matador, an effort to bring law and order to the bulk of Iraq’s vast, western al Anbar province, which makes up one-third of the country. What these Marines are doing now near the Syrian border is what they did months ago in Fallujah, and the progress is evident.

In Fallujah, the people are returning, life is improving, and civic pride is on the rise. It is a vastly different place from what it was when I was last there eight months ago. Just a few days ago, I filed reports for FOX News from Fallujah without a flack jacket and Kevlar helmet, something unthinkable eight months ago, when terrorists controlled the city. In the eight months between my visits, U.S. forces dislodged the jihadists that had turned that city into a hell on earth comprised of human slaughterhouses, torture chambers and weapons factories, where car bombs and suicide bombing vests were manufactured and stored to be used elsewhere in the country.

Now in Fallujah, an Iraqi-elected government is in charge and a certain semblance of normalcy can be felt. Security is improving and increasingly handled by Iraqi forces, led by Iraqi decision-makers. Even the public utilities are on the mend.

Marines working with city leaders told me that a new bio-hazard disposal incinerator was installed at a nearby medical facility; a chlorination facility was installed to fight the spread of cholera; and an information brief board was erected to improve communications among the citizens, government leaders and U.S. support elements. It is a far cry from a year ago, when the charred bodies of Americans were strung up from bridge girders and the hospitals were used as terrorist command centers.

In Fallujah, there is no doubt that progress is being made. Today, similar efforts to clean out terrorist encampments are taking place elsewhere in the country. Operation Matador is taking place in al Qaim and the surrounding area, and with some added elements of help, will turn this area into a success story, just as was done in Fallujah.

Here, Marines are precision warriors fighting against a ferocious enemy. In the first 48 hours of Operation Matador, U.S. forces took out more than 100 enemy fighters in and around the city of al Qaim. But it’s not just Iraqis opposing U.S. forces. According to Marine Lt. Col. Tim Mundy, commander of the Third Battalion, Second Marine Regiment,

there are “some local fighters, but a lot of foreigners also.”

Marine Capt. Joseph Arico, fire-support coordinator for RCT-2, told me: “The enemy is a group that does not want the Iraqi people to be free. They’re suppressing them, and they’re doing their damndest to prevent anyone from forming the government that (the Iraqis) are trying to establish.” Arico continued, “From what I see, the foreigners provide the training and get the individual Iraqis who don’t want this government established to work against us.” Marine Lt. Gen. James Conway, director of operations for the Joint Chiefs of Staff, confirmed that the jihadists “are in uniform, wearing protective vests, and their training exceeds what we have seen with other engagements further east.”

The jihadists that were able to get out of Fallujah fled west, to the area around al Qaim. This vast western region of Iraq, bordering Syria, has been devoid of governmental control since long before Saddam’s statue was pulled down. And therein is the main problem and the suggestion for fixing it. Where the new Iraqi government and security forces are able to take control, situations are improving. That dynamic must be brought here to al Qaim.

First, the Senate must quickly confirm Zalmay Khalilzad, President Bush’s nominee as the next U.S. ambassador to Iraq, so that he can more effectively facilitate communications between Ameri-

can military forces, the new Iraqi government and Iraqi security forces. The political clout of the ambassador will help the Iraqi authorities to establish a government presence in this region. Such a presence is desperately needed to improve security in the area that just saw the kidnapping of Raja Nawaf Farhan al-Mahalawi, the brave governor of al Anbar province.

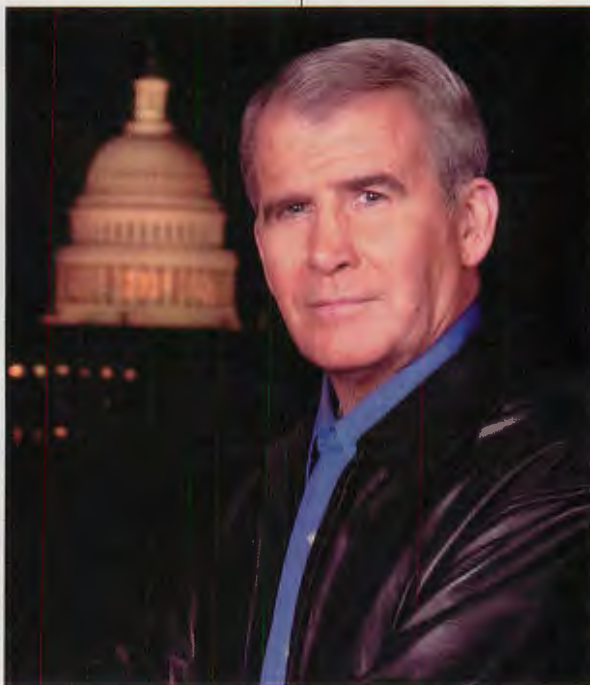
The presence of a U.S. ambassador will also help our fighting forces who are rooting out these deeply entrenched jihadists and shutting down the “ratlines” that supply the insurgency in other parts of the country.

Our Marines have improved the situation in Fallujah — they are in the process of doing the same in al Qaim. With due support, they will leave Iraq better than they found it.

Oliver North is host of “War Stories” on the Fox News Channel. The opinions expressed above are his own and do not represent the views of Fox News and/or Soldier Of Fortune.

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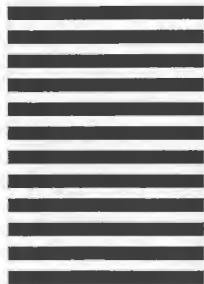
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